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TODAY

Peres: No Arab municipal council in capital

LIAT COLLINS

THE Arab Jerusalem Municipal Council will not be allowed to operate, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, reportedly told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

"Jerusalem is united. There is no additional municipality and will not be. What they [the Palestinian Authority] decide or say has no value," Peres was quoted as saying.

He reiterated that Jerusalem is outside of the Palestinian Authority's purview, and that while guests of Palestinian residents of the city could visit Orient House, the Oslo accords forbid the holding of negotiations with the PA there.

The committee meeting was marked by an unusually bitter exchange of insults. When Likud MK Ze'ev Begin revealed a classified Foreign Ministry document that says the Central Bureau of Statistics would use Palestinian teachers to carry out the census that will be the basis for Palestinian elections, Peres accused Begin of "stealing documents" and being a "thief and informer."

"Your unholy wrath won't help you," responded Begin, after which Peres, in an aside to committee chairman Ori Orr, said: "Enough of this family!"

Labor MK Emanuel Zissman, at odds with his faction over his plan to introduce a bill that would make concessions on the Golan Heights more difficult, also attacked Peres on Jerusalem.

He said the government is ignoring reality when it says the PLO does not operate in Jerusalem. "Who is Faisal Hussein? Isn't he in charge of PLO activities in Jerusalem?"

Peres told the committee that two issues concerning the Palestinian elections remain to be solved: Who could be elected and whether polls would be set up in east Jerusalem.

Challenged about his statements that the Golan Heights are Syrian territory, Peres said: "Perhaps my statements paved the way in some part to a peace agreement with Syria."

He said the Labor Party platform, which calls for retaining the Golan is not important in the light of the new reality. He compared the situation to the Likud platform during the Sinai withdrawal.

He added that there is no agreed-upon schedule to implement any agreement with Syria.

Health tax income less than expected

JUDY SIEGEL

THE amount of health taxes collected by the National Insurance Institute since January has fallen about eight percent below Health Ministry estimates, putting a strain on the smaller health funds, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

No comment was available on the issue from the NII or the ministry.

The Maccabi health fund -

which, until January was the country's only deficit-free health insurer - has cut the wages of its employees and independent physicians by "several percent" because of a severe shortfall of funds.

Health Minister Ephraim Sneh will today meet with Maccabi director-general Rafi Roter to discuss financial aid to the fund.

Maccabi marketing director Assaf Becker said the basket of services set by the government is not covered by the amount of health taxes Maccabi receives, due to the relative youth of its

members. Health funds are compensated much more for older members.

He also noted that the government last year approved significant wage increases for health workers and a major hike in the per diem hospitalization fees that health funds must pay to cover members' hospitalization.

The Leumi health fund has not cut salaries, even though it has an accumulated deficit of NIS 225 million. It is negotiating with the government for covering this debt.

Meuhedet has not reduced wages either, but it has instituted various efficiency measures.

Related story, Page 3



Border policemen struggle to separate antagonists yesterday at Issawiya. Story, Page 12.

(Brian Heidler)

'IDF's role in Syria talks a potential minefield'

ALON PINKAS

THE army's central role in negotiations with Syria on security arrangements is a potential political minefield that could entrap the IDF and seriously imperil its apolitical status, a senior officer warned yesterday.

"The danger concerns both the substantive level and public perceptions of the army," the officer stressed.

The warning came the same day a poll was published in *Yediot Aharonot* indicating that 65.6 percent of the public is more inclined to trust the army's position on withdrawal from the Golan Heights than statements by politicians. The poll was conducted by the Steinmetz Center for Peace Studies at Tel Aviv University.

The danger therefore seems to lie not just in what the army's position would be, but how it would be made public, especially when political distortions of that position from both the left and the right are to be expected.

Ostensibly, Israeli Ambassa-

dor to the US Itamar Rabinovitch will maintain his role as senior negotiator with the Syrians, but the arrival in Washington of Chief of the General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, accompanied by two and possibly three major-generals, will inevitably attract the spotlight and place the army at the epicenter of the talks.

Thus, no matter what its professional opinions are, the army is likely to be criticized for becoming politicized, as was the case with the negotiations leading to the Cairo agreement.

The generals who will join Shahak for his meetings with Syrian CGS Gen. Hikmat Shihabi will be the military secretary to the prime minister, Maj.-Gen. Danny Yatom, OC Planning Branch Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan and possibly the outgoing OC Intelligence Branch, Maj.-Gen. Uri Saguy.

"The situation is dangerous for the army by virtue of its im-

plicity," the senior officer said. "If the chief of the general staff says anything publicly, or the Israeli, US or even Syrian media report anything that implies that he has reservations concerning the settlement, Prime Minister Rabin's chances of winning a referendum are slim."

"If the CGS endorses the agreement and if the army is satisfied with security arrange-

ments, the government's prospects are much more promising. But the problem is that, theoretically, it is not for the army to reject, endorse or even express an opinion on a political deal, but only to present its impartial professional assessment of the security arrangements."

"I would carefully put it this way," the officer said. "Never has a chief of the general staff been in such a precarious position."

Ross: Israel, Syria reach 'new phase'

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

THE upcoming meetings here of the Israeli and Syrian chiefs of staff point to "a new phase" in the peace talks, US peace process coordinator Dennis Ross said yesterday.

Damascus and Jerusalem are now prepared to tackle the substance of the security arrangements related to a future deal, he said.

"It demonstrates a very high level of commitment on both sides. When you're prepared to go ahead and commit your chiefs of staff to begin a process of negotiations, you're also demonstrating a level of intent," Ross told a forum of the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

"This will not be a simple and easy negotiation," he said, but the resumption of the talks "gives us a reason, again, to be somewhat hopeful that progress can and will be made."

"It may not be immediate, but there's no question that we're in a new phase. And the new phase really embodies what I would call an effort to get down to business, because we're not going to be dealing with the generalities of security arrangements. We're going to start dealing with what is the real substance and details of secu-

arity arrangements," Ross said.

The Israeli and Syrian chiefs of staff, Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and Gen. Hikmat Shihabi, are due to meet here from June 27 to 29. Ross also confirmed yesterday that he would likely visit the region afterwards, to prepare for a second phase of talks involving both countries' ambassadors and lower-level military officials.

While "there is still a long way to go" to reach a deal, "what may be more important is that there is a strong mutual desire to try to reach agreement. There's a strong willingness to pursue it in a businesslike fashion," Ross said. "In the end, intent is very important. And the intent, I think, on both sides, is to try to reach an agreement."

In Damascus, Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara said yesterday that the talks would determine the future of the Middle East peace process.

Shara was briefing the Syrian cabinet on the outcome of US Secretary of State Warren Christopher's latest swing through the region to advance the talks.

"The success of the upcoming meetings in Washington between the two chiefs of staff will be an important factor in pushing forward the peace process," Shara told the cabinet.

(Continued on Page 2)

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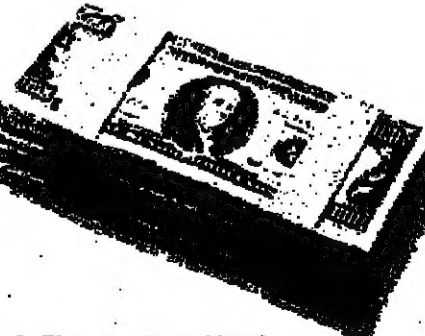
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Settlers occupy Barkan homes as police stand by

HERB KEINON

DOZENS of people who challenged the government by moving into the shells of Jewish-owned homes on a slope outside the Samaritan settlement of Barkan slept there last night, after the police said they had not yet found a legal reason to evict them.

"If they are trespassers we will evacuate them; if not we will bring them a mezuza," said Police Minister Moshe Shahal.

Some 250 people went to the site at dawn yesterday and declared that they had established a new settlement called "Ma'aleh Yisrael." The group cleaned out the structures and hooked them up to water and electricity.

Shahal told Israel Radio that although the legal status of the property is not completely clear, "no one is complaining about trespassing." He said the goal of the operation "was to make noise. I don't understand why to move apartments you have to come with 250 people and tell the police, 'come and get us'."

Aharon Domb, spokesman for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, said the purpose of this operation, and other

similar ones he said will take place in the next few weeks, is to "stake a claim to all Jewish property and historical and archeological sites so that the government does not give them to the terrorists."

Nissan Slomianski, one of the leaders of the council, said that the homes were bought in 1982, and were intended at that time as a new neighborhood for the settlement of Barkan.

Barkan is located just south of the Trans-Samaritan Highway, about 10 kilometers east of Elkana.

Slomianski, who had papers attesting to the ownership of the land, said that three families lived in the homes in the mid '80s, but moved out shortly after the intifada. After they left, the houses were looted. The site was used for a time as an IDF outpost.

Aliza Matalon, who owns one of the homes, said she lived in it "until the intifada started and they burned my house."

Dozens of police and IDF soldiers poured into the area soon after the settlers arrived, but — aside from issuing NIS 160 parking tickets for cars parked on the highway — kept a



Settlers at morning prayer in an unfinished home in Barkan yesterday.

(AP)

low profile. The police did announce that they would not allow trailers or heavy building equipment at the site.

Meanwhile, Jerusalem PLO leader Faisal Hussein called the incident a "provocation" and told reporters that "There are some sides in the

Israeli community and Israeli officials who are working... to create a situation which will wreck the whole peace process."

Peace Now called on the government to immediately evacuate the site and take legal action against the settlers.

Barkan takeover meant to disrupt

REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

HERB KEINON

"MA'ALEH Yisrael" forever, reads graffiti painted on one of the 13 unfinished houses near Barkan that settlers and their supporters moved into yesterday.

But if the last two years are any indication, this slogan is probably just wishful thinking.

Since the Rabin government was formed in 1992, there have been numerous attempts to "create facts on the ground," and set up new settlements or neighborhoods near existing ones, either as a reaction to a terrorist attack, or as an attempt to make it more difficult for the government to maneuver.

Gush Etzion settlers tried to set up a community on the site where Mordechai Lipkin was killed in 1993. A few months later, amid a great deal of hype, a campaign to double the number of settlements was launched. And last year settlers from Samaria tried to establish a permanent presence at the site north of Beit El where Ofra Felix was killed.

No trace of these "settlements" remains.

But Nissan Slomianski, one of the organizers of the operation and a leading activist in the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, is not deterred. "Our job is to light a fire. Then we hope that it spreads. If it doesn't, at least we know we did what we had to."

Each of the homes on the steep, thorny hill near Barkan sported two Israeli flags. Workmen from the Samaria Regional Council quickly hooked up lighting and brought in portable bathrooms. One house became a yeshiva study hall. Another was turned into a clubhouse for kids.

Slomianski, along with Benny Katzover, Aharon Domb and Elyakim Ha'etzi — all veterans of the early Gush Etzion campaign of the 1970s — they seem to be trying to duplicate — sat on the floor of the building that was turned into the command post and directed the action.

Which settlements will send people? Which politicians will become involved? Where exactly should the benches and tables be put?

A number of the people on hand tried to compare "Ma'aleh Yisrael" with Sebastia, the deserted train depot near Nablus, where Gush Etzion entered the nation's lexicon and forced a reluctant government to set up a settlement in the heart of Samaria.

But Domb realizes that the times have changed, and that the comparison is faulty. "At Sebastia we were trying to set up settlements," he said. "Now we have 140 settlements, and 140,000 people living in them."

The real purpose of "Ma'aleh Yisrael," the leaders of the operation admitted privately, is to trigger an angry response from the Palestinians that would create a crisis in the negotiations. Bringing in a few more settlers, or moving them from one settlement to the next, is secondary.

Reuma Weizman hosts meet of Holocaust survivors

BATSHEVA TSUR

WITH cries of excitement and tears of joy, 140 of the Holocaust survivors who spent part of their childhood at the Blankenese children's home in Germany gathered yesterday for a reunion at Beit Hanassi.

Switching quickly to their native European tongues, the survivors fell on each other's shoulders, sought out old acquaintances and looked eagerly at pictures of the period.

The meeting was hosted by Reuma Weizman who, at age 21, was in charge of the children's

home. Some 300 Jewish orphans were given a new lease on life there between 1945-47. The home was located on the luxurious estate of the Jewish Warburg family, on the outskirts of Hamburg, in pre-war years.

Two daughters of the Warburgs who later made aliya attended the gathering alongside Betty Adler, who ran the home with Weizman, former Blankenese director Genia Schvartsm, Hama Dichter, who taught Hebrew there, and Joint Distribution Committee and Jewish Agency representatives.

"For many years I dreamed of getting everyone together and this is one of the most meaningful days of my life," Reuma Weizman told the gathering.

President Ezer Weizman said that the years his wife had spent at Blankenese had helped him to understand what the Jews of Europe had undergone during the Holocaust.

IDF conducts nighttime searches of Nablus

JON IMMANUEL and ALON PINKAS

THE army yesterday rounded up scores of Palestinians and searched their homes in Nablus, in a widespread hunt for wanted Hamas activists, army sources said last night.

Local residents said the troops scoured Nablus neighborhoods during the past two nights.

In the early morning hours yesterday, troops raided the Khaleel al-Amud area between the military headquarters and Mt. Gerizim at the eastern part of the city, apparently searching for fugitives. Dozens of young men were rounded up and taken to the mili-

tary headquarters. Most were released at dawn.

Several women were body-searched during the raid, according to what women residents said they had heard. Helicopters equipped with projectors lit up the area, lighting it up to prevent anybody from fleeing.

Residents said the army surrounded and searched a construction site, shot and threw grenades at it, but found nobody. They reported hearing the sound of gunfire and concussion grenades

during the operation.

Last night the IDF confirmed the reports and said that no property had been damaged in the searches, pointing out that no residents had filed complaints.

Sunday night, troops searched the Moutaza area in western Nablus, made no arrests but took youths into the streets and searched them, residents said.

They speculated the operation was a last-minute clean-up of areas where Hamas activists might be operating before an IDF rede-

ployment makes such raids more problematic.

During the past two weeks, Palestinians have reported higher than usual concentrations of troops in Nablus and in Tulkarm, another town expected to be among the first from which the IDF will redeploy. An army base in the Tulkarm area was recently evacuated.

The army last night denied that it had raided a house in Dura near Hebron belonging to the family of Jibril Rajoub, the head of preventive security in Jericho who has brothers who belong to Hamas.

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The weekly meeting of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place at 1:00 p.m. today, at the YMCA, King David St. Mrs. Deborah Gittleman will receive the Vocational Excellence Award.

The Foreign Minister of Israel

Mr. Shimon Peres

expresses his deep sorrow to

H.E. the Ambassador of Colombia

Mr. Patricio Samper

on the tragic death of his wife.

GENEVEVA

JACOB JACOBS

Formerly of South Africa,

passed away suddenly, and will be deeply mourned by his wife and family and all Beit Hamadia.

The funeral is to take place today, June 14, 1995 at 4 p.m. at Kibbutz Hamadia.

Shiva at the home of his daughter, Cecily Nelson, at Kibbutz Hamadia.

In deep sorrow, I announce the passing of my beloved husband

MICHEL ZAMIR ז"ל

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26 years have passed since the tragic loss of my dearest beloved husband, our father, grandfather and brother the Pianist

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The Family



To Sheila Zucker

On the passing of your father

JACK ROSENFELD ז"ל

our sincere condolences on your sad loss.

IBA News

Israel Television

Court told plans for Golan are 'electoral fraud'

EVELYN GORDON

THE government's plans to withdraw from the Golan and dismantle the settlements should be declared illegal, because they violate Labor's campaign promises, a petition to the High Court of Justice demanded yesterday.

The petition, by Golan resident and right-wing activist Michael Ben-Horin, argued that by doing something which so directly violates their election platform, Labor and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin are guilty of gross electoral fraud which "turns the idea of democracy into an empty vessel."

"Israel considers the Golan Heights to be of great importance for its security and peace, and to ensure its water supply, even in a time of peace," stated Labor's electoral platform. "In any peace agreement with Syria... Israeli control and the presence of the army and the settlements... on the Golan Heights will continue..."

Labor would not have won the elections without the swing vote it got from people who believed its promises about the Golan, Ben-Horin said.

ROSS

(Continued from Page 1)

He said a Syrian-Israeli understanding on security arrangements on the Golan Heights that was reached last month provided a suitable framework for the military chiefs' meeting.

He said Syria still insists on recovering the entire the Golan Heights.

After meeting in Paris with French President Jacques Chirac yesterday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said the resumption of the officers' talks could be considered a step forward, but is certainly not a breakthrough towards signing a peace treaty.

Rabin said he would not sign a treaty before holding a referendum. "We will put in front of the Israeli people a concrete decision, not an abstract one — a question will have to be answered 'yes' or 'no.'" He said he would respect any decision made by the people.

Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said yesterday that a peace treaty with Syria is a thousand times more important than retaining territory, "as long as there is a promise of appropriate security arrangements."

Speaking to a group of 11th graders at the Gymnasias Herzliya in Tel Aviv, Shohat said, "Peace with Syria means basically peace with Lebanon or some other agreement with Lebanon."

All opposition bills on Golan withdrawn

SARAH HONIG

THE government heaved a sigh of relief yesterday, after the final opposition bill demanding special Knesset and referendum majorities for territorial concessions on the Golan Heights was withdrawn.

Tsomet's bill was withdrawn at the request of Labor hawk MK Avigdor Kahalani, who asked that "Tsomet be patient and keep its bill pending till the end of July, just before the Knesset goes on recess."

At that point, Kahalani said, he will resubmit his own bill and facilitate the cooperation of the various forces seeking to mandate the special majorities.

Various bills — sponsored by the Likud, Tsomet and Labor hawks Kahalani, Emanuel Zissman and Ya'acov Sheffi — were due to be voted upon today.

The retreat, however, began when the Labor Knesset faction forbade the three Labor MKs from submitting their Golan bill and demanded that he wait until just before the Knesset recesses in early August.

Fearing that the bill might not pass, Kahalani opted for the postponement but vowed to "bring the bill to a vote in a few weeks, even if the Labor faction again reneges on a very clear undertaking."

It was Kahalani who approached Tsomet leader Raphael Eitan yesterday morning with the request that his faction's bill be delayed. Since without assured support of the three Labor hawks his bill could not pass in any case, Eitan consented.

Jordanian politician: Majority support peace with Israel

BATSHEVA TSUR and Itim

THE majority of the Jordanian people support the peace with Israel, Ahmed Zuabi, president of Jordan's Al-Ahrrar party declared yesterday.

Speaking during a meeting with President Ezer Weizman at Beit Hanassi, Zuabi called for "building a new Middle East that will be to the benefit of all its peoples."

"We are brothers... and we

have a common destiny," he said. Even before relations with Israel were officially established, his party had set up a Jordanian association for peace, he revealed.

"The greatest honor in our era is to work for peace," Zuabi declared.

"I'll shake hands on that,"

Weizman responded.

The four-man Al-Ahrrar delegation, here on an official visit, went from Weizman's residence to Yad Vashem, the first official Jordanian delegation to visit there. "We have a deep feeling of sorrow towards the victims," said Zuabi at Yad Vashem.

Zuabi said it was necessary to increase cooperation between Israel and Jordan.

NEWS IN BRIEF

5 held in shooting near Hussein's home

Five members of the Forum for Greater Jerusalem, students at Jerusalem's Beit Orot yeshiva, were arrested last night suspected of shooting in the air near the home of Faisal Hussein, police said. Hussein, in charge of Jerusalem affairs in the Palestinian Authority, was not home at the time and no one was hurt. The five were arrested at a Jerusalem police station when they arrived to complain that their car windshield had been damaged by rocks thrown outside Hussein's home, police said.

GSS: Terror attacks at nine-year low

The lowest number of terrorist attacks in nine years was recorded last month, Channel 1's *Mabar* newsreel reported last night. Included are the throwing of firebombs, shootings, and the planting of explosive devices. According to figures provided by the GSS, there were only 49 attacks last month, compared with 302 in the same period last year. During March and February there were a total of 120 attacks, compared with 796 in the same period in 1994.

Jogger a hit-and-run victim

A 55-year-old jogger from Ra'anana was killed in a hit-and-run accident last night, near the Kfar Nahman cemetery. Police set up roadblocks in the area last night in an attempt to catch the driver.

Hadassah doctors strike today

Some 800 doctors at the two Hadassah-University Hospitals in Jerusalem will hold a 24-hour "warning strike" starting at 7 a.m. today. The protest, called by the Israel Medical Association, was set because the Hadassah Medical Association has decided not to allow doctors to select hospital division heads.

Judy Siegel

Rabbis halt Bnei Brak municipal strike

BNEI Brak Deputy Mayor Yerachmiel Boyer said yesterday the city's sanitation workers were to resume collecting garbage and cleaning streets, at the request of the city's leading rabbis.

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מלון מן אלדל

German politician injured by letter bomb

BONN (AP) - A letter bomb exploded yesterday in Luebeck's city hall, mangleing a politician's hand. Authorities said they believed it was the work of right-wing extremists responsible for previous attacks in Austria.

It was the second letter bomb to go off in Germany in four days. Both were mailed from Austria and addressed to people who have spoken out against right-wing extremists.

Vienna police said they were looking for a man who was seen wearing rubber gloves and acting suspiciously around a mailbox in Hartberg late Monday night. The man sped off in a red car and there was speculation more deadly envelopes could be in the mail.

Austria has been hit by a series of letter bombings since December 1993.

On Friday, a first German target was struck. An envelope addressed to a black talk show hostess exploded at a Munich television station, injuring her assistant.

Another went off that same day at a dating service for foreigners in the Austrian city of Linz, injuring a Hungarian woman.

The intended recipient of Munich bomb is on a list of personalities sent last week to a Vienna attorney by a group that has claimed responsibility for the very first bombings in Austria.

Yesterday morning, at city hall in the northern port of Luebeck, Social Democratic councilman Thomas Rother started to open an envelope that suddenly exploded.

Rother was rushed to a hospital with a badly bleeding hand.

British government under pressure for arms sales to Iran

LONDON (Reuters) - The British government was engulfed in a new controversy over arms exports yesterday after it admitted a firm which had cabinet minister Jonathan Aitken as a director apparently broke an embargo on defense sales to Iran.

In a dramatic statement to parliament, Trade Secretary Michael Heseltine said Britain's Customs would investigate whether the firm, BMARC, had illegally used Singapore as a conduit for arms sales to Iran in the 1980s.

Heseltine, whose department is responsible for export controls, promised full cooperation with any parliamentary probe. Aitken, who was in parliament to hear Heseltine's report, repeated an earlier denial of any wrongdoing.

Aitken, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said in a statement that when he was a director of BMARC he had never been given any information to suggest that the firm was illicitly shipping defense components to Iran via Singapore.



President Bill Clinton walks with US Air Force pilot Scott O'Grady through the colonades of the White House after their private meeting in the Oval Office. Later, the president hosted a luncheon for the F-16 pilot, who was shot down over Bosnia and rescued in a daring operation by US forces last week after spending six days hiding from the Bosnian Serbs. (AP)

Bosnian Serbs free most UN hostages

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - All but 14 of the last 144 UN hostages held by Bosnian Serbs headed for freedom yesterday after their captors bowed to pressure from the Serbian president to end three weeks of confrontation with the UN.

But United Nations sources voiced alarm that a fresh crisis loomed as the Moslem-led Bosnian government army began deployment of up to 30,000 troops 20 km north of Sarajevo.

"There's never been a massing of troops like this before in the Bosnian war," said a UN official who asked not to be named. "They clearly intend to strike towards Sarajevo."

UN observers also saw Bosnian Serb forces deploying to cut off any attempt by the government to break their three-year siege of Sarajevo.

A bus with 28 British, French, Polish and Scandinavian hostages left the Bosnian stronghold of Pale for Yugoslavia escorted by Serbian state security chief Jovica Stanisic who hailed the release as "a great success" for Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

A Swedish soldier among them told reporters he was "very well treated" during 18 days of captivity and expected to rejoin his battalion in Bosnia "but I don't know where...not for my normal duties, that's for sure".

Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, said his army also ended its blockade of around 100 UN troops trapped at observation posts and weapons dumps around Sarajevo.

He promised the 14 men still held for "technical reasons" would be liberated by the end of the week, possibly in exchange for four Serbian soldiers held by the UN.

"All the UN personnel blocked or imprisoned were freed at 11 a.m.," Karadzic said. "We consider this crisis closed and we hope it will never happen again." He looked sombre although his "foreign minister" told reporters the Bosnian Serbs won a promise from the West that there would be no more NATO air strikes against them.

The Bosnian Serb Army (BSA) seized almost 400 UN soldiers in retaliation for two attacks by NATO warplanes on May 25-26. Stanisic obtained the release of two groups among them after earlier visits to Pale this month.

Yasushi Akashi, the UN mission chief in former Yugoslavia said he would not be satisfied until all the hostages were out although the releases "will make it easier to proceed with our remaining tasks of peacekeeping".

With the hostage crisis almost over, the focus switched to international efforts to revive peace talks which Karadzic has boycotted

since rejecting a Big Power peace plan last summer.

Italian Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli, in Belgrade to talk to Milosevic amid intensifying diplomatic exchanges on Bosnia, said: "I think today, the situation is very much changed".

The immediate priority for Akashi is to end the Bosnian Serb blockade of aid convoys to Sarajevo and Moslem enclaves in eastern Bosnia which have been halted since the air strikes.

The BSA has crippled the aid mission since the air strikes, forcing peacekeepers to plead for permission to bring aid into Sarajevo and other besieged enclaves.

The Serbs blocked food deliveries to the Bosnian capital yesterday when the UN refused to give them half the shipment for the Serb population who get their own UN aid.

Akashi has given Karadzic until the end of June to honor standing agreements on the free flow of aid.

UN officials said if the Serbs refuse to comply, the UN could use its new 10,000 strong multinational rapid reaction force to enforce the agreements.

The first French contingent for the force arrived at the Croatian Adriatic port of Split prior to deployment.

US and North Korea to okay nuclear pact

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) - Both sides claimed they didn't yield on big issues and everyone sounded happy after Americans and North Koreans wrapped up nuclear talks yesterday with a new deal.

But both sides were quick to point out this was just another step in a painfully protracted process to implement their 8-month-old agreement to freeze and dismantle the North's nuclear program, suspected of weapons development.

The latest agreement would provide North Korea with South Korean nuclear reactors that produce far less weapons-grade plutonium than its currently frozen facilities. But in deference to the communist North, which had been holding up agreement by rejecting equipment from its southern capitalist rival, it does not mention South Korea.

"This is not the last hurdle," US Ambassador-at-Large Robert Gallucci said. "Not all of (the future negotiating with the North) is going to be easy."

Gallucci, speaking to reporters in Seoul, said there is "quite a list" of issues still to negotiate with the North, including the fate of corroding spent fuel rods that could yield weapons-grade plutonium.

"We can say we removed stumbling blocks," chief North Korean negotiator Kim Gye Gwan said in Kuala Lumpur after the two sides issued a joint statement. "However, it is at an early stage. We have more difficult tasks to settle."

Still, the deal should help ease tensions on the Korean Peninsula, which have been rising over the North's threat to restart its nuclear facilities.

Although nothing was signed, chief US negotiator Thomas Hubbard said: "We do not expect them to backtrack. It is a critical part of their national de-

velopment. I believe North Korea wants better relations with the United States."

South Korea offered to pay most of the \$4 billion cost of two new, safer reactors. North Korea balked, citing safety concerns, but it was believed to be acting out of national pride.

The joint statement evaded the dispute by saying the reactor is "the advanced version of US-origin design" and specifying that an American company will be the project coordinator.

With a US coordinator, the North may be able to avoid direct official contact with the South.

And while the agreement does not say the reactors will be South Korean, the South is satisfied because it specified reactors with two coolant loops - a design that South Korea has adapted from US technology and is using to build two nuclear plants at the Ulsan complex on the country's east coast.

"That will give us a central role that South Korea has been requesting," South Korean chief presidential spokesman Yoon Yeo-jun said. He added that President Clinton sent President Kim Young-sam a letter of assurance.

The Korea Peninsula Energy Development Organization, an international consortium that will oversee the project, said it was specifying the Ulsan-model reactors and would start negotiations with South Korea's state Korean Electric Power Co. to become the main contractor.

South Korean officials said KEDO might agree to some project-related extras sought by North Korea, which included power lines and other infrastructure improvements.

"We cannot spend a single penny" until the project is completed and operational," North Korea's Kim insisted.

US documents reveal Nichols's brother considered blowing up a federal building in 1988

DETROIT (AP) - The brother of the man who killed 168 people in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, Terry Nichols, drew a diagram of the federal building and talked about blowing it up with a "megabomb" seven years ago, government documents reveal.

An FBI informant who visited James Nichols at his Decker farm around Dec. 23, 1988, said Nichols was upset by the recent terrorist bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 in Lockerbie, Scotland. He blamed the attack on the US government and said a "megabomb capable of leveling a building could be built," the informant said.

The informant's story is contained in an affidavit for a search warrant that was among more than 100 pages of federal documents released in response to a Freedom of Information Act request by the Detroit Free Press and The Detroit News.

According to the affidavit, Nichols made specific reference to a federal building in Oklahoma City and drew a diagram "similar to the construction of (the Alfred P.) Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City."

Later, Nichols located a newspaper article containing a reference to the federal building and showed it to the informant, the affidavit said.

Nichols, 41, is not charged in the April 19 federal building bombing case.

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Divers search for ancient lighthouse

DALIA BALIGH
ALEXANDRIA

IN a race against time, a team of Egyptian and French divers is searching the blue-green waters of the Mediterranean for the remains of the Pharos lighthouse, one of the wonders of the ancient world.

At stake is an offshore grave for the remnants of Greek temples, statues and possibly the lighthouse, which was built more than 2,200 years ago.

The government says it may soon blanket that patch of sea with a barrier of concrete blocks to protect a 15th-century Mameluke fort that stands where the lighthouse once did. It has given the team until autumn to conduct its search.

"It is a challenge for survival between the Greco-Roman antiquities and the Mameluke citadel," said Jean-Yves Empeur, director of the French Center of Alexandrian Studies, who heads the expedition of 20 French and 10 Egyptian divers.

Their goal is to map a 20,000-sq.m. area off Egypt's second-largest city, which was founded by Alexander the Great. Under the water is a plethora of ruins, some of which the expedition hopes to salvage.

Among the remnants may be the lighthouse, built in 279 BCE during the reign of Ptolemy II.

The white-marble building stood 120 m. high in a colonnaded court and was equipped with a hydraulic lift to raise fuel to the roof. Its lantern, probably magnified by a reflecting device, could be seen for 55 km.

For 1,400 years, the lighthouse served as the symbol of Alexandria and a beacon for ships, until devastating earthquakes in 1100 and 1307 brought it tumbling down.

In 1479, a Mameluke ruler built the Qait Bay fort on the lighthouse site on the Pharos peninsula. The citadel, with its high walls and turrets, underwent extensive renovation in the 1980s.

The divers, financed by private funds and French-government contributions, started last fall and resumed their work May 14 after a six-month break. The expedition will cost \$500,000.

"We are making an identification of the blocks, studying the inscriptions and choosing some to be taken out," said Jean-Pierre Cortegiani, a member of the expedition. "We can't take all the blocks out. But maybe we can have something like an underwater archeological park."

The threat to their work comes from the government's effort to preserve the Mameluke citadel. Fearing damage from winter storms, the government started sinking huge concrete blocks in 1993 as a protective barrier around the fort.

After an outcry from archeologists, the project was suspended to allow the diving team to search the seabed, but the government gave them only until the autumn.

What they have already found amazed them. Just 6 to 8 meters under water were hundreds of blocks, ranging from 3 to 70 tons, pieces of temples and statues. All dated to the Ptolemaic period. Their shadows can be seen from the citadel.

Among the stones were pieces of ancient columns, many inscribed, and huge granite and marble statues of sphinxes and Egyptian deities, some of which stood 13 m. tall.

What also caught the divers' attention were at least three layers of unscrubbed blocks. These blocks, some as heavy as 70 tons, are believed to have been part of the lighthouse.

"It is certainly possible that some of the pieces are from the lighthouse itself," Cortegiani said. "In fact, it would be amazing if nothing came from the lighthouse, seeing as this is where it toppled into the sea."

How the remains of the other temples and statues got into the sea is a mystery.

One possibility is that the area was once above sea level but settled. Another is that the Mamelukes dismantled the old temples and statues and dumped them into the sea to protect the fort.

(Associated Press)



In northern Iraq, Kurds call on UN officials and US soldiers not to leave them alone in their fight against Saddam Hussein, in this May 1991 file photo; now two Iraqi Kurdish groups have presented plans to end the dispute.

Warring Kurds talk compromise

News agencies
ANKARA

TWO Iraqi Kurdish groups, which have battled for control in northern Iraq for more than a year, have presented draft plans to end their dispute.

The proposals issued separately by the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) carried similar conditions.

Both groups called for a permanent cease-fire, the demilitarization of their de-facto capital city Irbil, reopening of the Kurdish parliament and the formation of a regional government, according to the proposals.

Massoud Barzani, leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, insisted that peace talks only take place after the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan pull out of Irbil, the jointly administered Kurdish "capital," which the PUK seized after bitter fighting broke out last December.

"We will not get together with the PUK until they withdraw their armed militia from Irbil," he said in comments relayed through KDP politburo member Sami Abdurrahman.

Barzani also said the PUK had to account for money it had "robbed" if customs revenues collected by the KDP were to be organized and distributed fairly.

Barzani said the rival group had "robbed" \$14 million from the region's central bank and from factories.

In turn, PUK leader Jalal Talabani proposed immediate talks and insisted that the KDP clarify its offer to share lucrative customs revenues from goods crossing at the Habur border point with Turkey.

There is continuous pressure from Washington and Ankara on the two groups to maintain peace and stability in northern Iraq. The region has been controlled by Iraqi Kurds under the protection of a US-led allied air force since the end of the Gulf war. It is out of reach of the Iraqi military.

Under the mission, known as Provide Comfort, Western planes, based at a southern Turkish base, make daily reconnaissance flights in the no-fly zone in northern Iraq to deter any possible Iraqi attacks against the Iraqi Kurds.

The Turkish National Security Council said this week that the US-led air force should be allowed to stay on after its mandate expires at the end of this month.

The council, an influential advisory body, issued a statement after holding a meeting with President Suleyman Demirel.

Parliament will vote on the issue in the coming weeks.

The KDP and PUK, which have fought each other and the Baghdad government on and off for decades, are the biggest Kurdish factions in northern Iraq.

More than 30,000 Turkish troops crossed into the region in April for six weeks to attack separatist Turkish Kurdish rebels, who use bases in northern Iraq to launch attacks on Turkey.

Turkey is pressing the KDP and PUK to patch up their differences, and hopes they will join forces against the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

The two Iraqi militias have been slowly moving toward peace in recent weeks. A cease-fire declared in April by the KDP has broadly held and was extended for another six weeks from June 1.

At the weekend, the PUK offered to demilitarize Irbil, and the KDP reciprocated by offering to split customs revenues as they did before the latest round of fighting.

KDP and PUK officials said they were close to agreement after the weekend statements, but their leaders appear cautious.

In late May they agreed to extend the mandate of the Kurdish parliament for a year from June 4, when it was due to end. The agreement was reached during short talks in a neutral location—the first meeting of the assembly in more than five months.

Elections for a Kurdish parliament were held in 1992.

Killing of soccer fan stuns Algerians

RACHID KHARI
ALGIERS

THOUSANDS of people flooded the streets in a poor Algiers neighborhood this week to mourn and protest the assassination of a colorful soccer fan beloved throughout Algeria.

The mostly young mourners, wearing soccer-club caps and scarves and waving national flags, sang and ululated through streets decked out in club colors to accompany Hocine Dehimi's body to the cemetery.

Sunday's killing was blamed on Islamic militants, who may now be focusing on popular rather than political targets and provoking new anger at the violence.

Dehimi had no educational, professional or political affiliations. The 33-year-old man, whose colorful dress and flags were a fixture at Algerian soccer matches, seemed an unlikely target for assassins.

For 15 years, Dehimi, known throughout Algeria by the nickname "Yamaha," had been a mascot for the national soccer team and his home club of the poor Belcourt district of Algiers, where he was born. Without a job, Yamaha always scraped together enough money to follow his team to away matches, where he banged his drum, danced and sang club songs, when most fans stayed home. He was so good at animating crowds that stadium officials bent security regulations to let him onto the field.

At least 30,000 people have been killed since the start of the revolt, which began after the army canceled national elections in January 1992 to thwart an expected victory by the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front.

Previously targeting mostly politicians, military officers, foreigners and intellectuals, the armed groups recently have turned to popular personalities like the singer Hassni, killed in September 1994.

Hassni's love songs and Algerian pop or "rai" dance tunes made him a star. Like him, Yamaha — Algeria's unofficial master of soccer ceremonies — was a symbol "of hope for young people thirsting to live, not to kill," according to the Algiers newspaper *El Watan*.

Yamaha's death was a particularly cruel loss for a young population — 75 percent of Algerians are under 30 — for whom the usual rites of young adulthood are stunted by curfews and other restrictions. Since movies, discotheques and concerts are no longer an option, soccer has become a consuming passion, and in this Yamaha was the flag bearer.

By attacking such a clearly apolitical target, the assassins could be seeking to fuel fears that Algeria is out of control. (AP)

Iran and Iraq try to talk away the chill

LEON BARKHO
BAGHDAD

IRAQ and Iran are likely to press on with trying to normalize relations, despite their seemingly irreconcilable differences.

Baghdad-based diplomats said an Iraqi delegation, under a senior Foreign Ministry official, was expected to go to Tehran to bring the two diehard enemies closer.

"This time it is Iran which needs reconciliation. But both sides will have to find an approach to solve some intractable issues," one diplomat said.

Iran has made overtures to Iraq, but Baghdad has given Tehran the cold shoulder since the end of their 1980-88 war.

"They [Iraqis] feel it is Tehran which needs them now. They are careful not to be used as a card [in Iran's row with the US]," the diplomat said.

Iraq has suffered from trade sanctions since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait, and Iran now shares some of the same pain after President Bill Clinton slapped on a US trade ban last month in response to Tehran's alleged nuclear arms program.

Both suffer from the declared US policy of isolating them.

But Baghdad has made clear that any solution of the problems straining relations between the two should emanate from a sincere desire on Iran's part, and not be dictated by circumstances. The problems include those derived from their eight-year war and those of the presence of opposition groups in each other's territory.

"As neighbors they have common interests, but Iraq may feel that Iran is playing the Iraqi card to the US," a diplomat said.

Iran has several cards to play with the West. Among them is a softening of its attitude on the death sentence (*farwa*) declared by the late Ayatollah Khomeini against *Satanic Verses* author Salman Rushdie. This would certainly please the European Union.

Improving ties with Gulf states and other Arab countries could be another way for Tehran to counter US sanctions.

But nothing could be more damaging to the US policy of dual containment — the isolation

of Baghdad and Teheran — than the normalization of their ties.

"At the moment the US policy makers think that is very unlikely," a Western diplomat said. "But in terms of Middle East politics, I do not see it as impossible."

LAST MONTH Tehran sent a delegation to Iraq under Ali Khorram, a senior adviser to Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati.

Iran gave an upbeat assessment of the mission. Iraq remained tight-lipped.

Senior officials on both sides have met in the past but failed to bring about a normalization of relations.

"It seems they have come to the conclusion that only continued dialogue will solve problems, and not a meeting here and there, now and then," the diplomat added.

Issues separating the two countries include repatriation of prisoners of war.

Iraq says more than 20,000 of its soldiers, some of whom have been languishing in Iranian prisons for more than 15 years, are still held by Teheran.

Iran gives conflicting figures of its own POWs. It speaks of several thousand. Baghdad says it has none.

There is also the presence of Iraqi war and civilian planes grounded in Iran since the 1991 Gulf war and the issue of who is going to pay war reparations.

But the thorniest issue relates to border incursions, which Baghdad regards as the root cause of the 1980-88 war.

Iran provides refuge for Iraqi dissidents on its territory.

The Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq has bases inside Iran.

Iraq has blamed instability in its southern marshlands on hit-and-run attacks the insurgents mounted on targets in southern Iraq.

Iran makes similar allegations.

It asked Iraq this week to extradite an exiled Iranian opposition leader, Massoud Rajavi, and top members of his Mujahideen Khalq group, whom it accuses of mounting cross-border raids and stirring up trouble. (Reuters)

Rebel returns to a new Morocco

CASABLANCA — Morocco's opposition parties are pinning hopes of unity and a place in government for the first time on the return from exile of resistance hero Mohammed Basri.

Better known as Fqih Basri (The Learned), he returned to Morocco this week, nearly 30 years after he fled to France to escape a death sentence for plotting against the state.

"They said that there is a change, so I am here to see if things have changed on the ground," Basri, 68, told reporters.

Independent political analysts say the return of a man sentenced to death three times is in itself a sign of change and proof that King Hassan's pledge of establishing democracy after three decades of center-right rule is sincere.

Some opposition sources believe the authorities allowed a man of Basri's stature to return because they see the scholar of Islam and former resistance fighter as insurance against the spread of Moslem fundamentalism.

A spokesman for the Islamist Justice and Charity Party, whose leader has been under house arrest since 1989, said: "The return of Basri to Morocco is a chance for the unification of progressive parties and the global unification with the Islamist movements."

But author Nadir Yata, whose father heads the Progressive Socialist Party, questioned whether Basri would appeal to a generation of Moroccans not even born when he led the fight for independence from France.

More than half of Morocco's 26 million people are under 20 years old, and there are signs that Islamists are finding ready recruits on university campuses.

For the leftist parties denied power largely because of their lack of cohesion, the charismatic Basri is seen as the only leader with the moral authority and popular appeal able to unify them.

"This is a great day for Moroccan democrats. This is a new page in the history of the struggle for democracy," said Ahmed Sannoussi, a human-rights activist.

There are four opposition parties in the 333-seat parliament and four others, including two Islamist movements which are not recognized officially, outside.

The schisms that plague the opposition were evident even amid rejoicing at Basri's home in Casablanca, where his leftist group's anti-government attacks led to a first death sentence in 1964.

The leader of the old-guard Istiqlal party, Mohammed Boucetta, was notably absent from the well-wishers who crowded into Basri's home. (Reuters)



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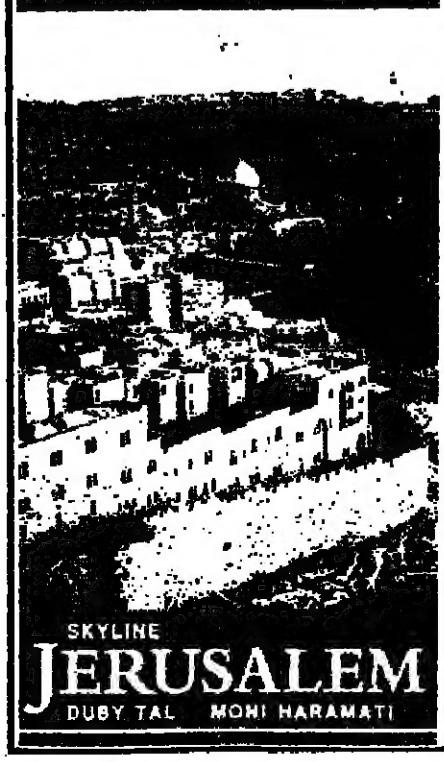
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Dialogue of demons

LOGIC has never been a word that springs to mind when the Middle East is discussed. Its antithesis is illustrated in the ancient regional joke of the scorpion that maliciously stings a frog carrying it across a stream to safety, killing both of them.

This, it was said, demonstrated the true value of peace pacts in an area where deviousness to gain advantage and treachery to throw enemies off guard have been traditionally acceptable norms of diplomacy and war. Of course, optimistic advocates of the "new Middle East" decry such perspectives as outmoded stereotypes. The news this week that Iran and Iraq have launched a drive to settle their differences and seek common purpose in the Gulf may cast a shadow over the most rose-tinted peace spectacles. A pact with the devil is bad enough, a pact between two destructive demons worse.

For Iran to cozy up to Saddam Hussein is a development that can only generate a cynical response in even the most glib of Middle East optimists. This is the man who in 1979, on television, tore up a carefully negotiated border treaty and attempted to invade Iraq without warning. He assumed that the Iranians, in the throes of revolutionary upheaval, would be a pushover for the first of his territorial adventures. He was just as wrong then as when he assumed his subsequent annexation of Kuwait would pass off with some huffing and puffing from the West.

The vicious eight-year war between Iran and Iraq can have made Saddam few friends in Iran, adding more death and injury to the insults the Persian and Arab rivals have traded for centuries. The current effort to stoke up some pre-emptive friendship has less to do with magnanimous reconciliation than with the mutual hatred of the two sides for those they have defined as common enemies - the West in general and the inevitable "Zionist entity" in particular. The reconciliation is therefore unlikely to be greeted with enthusiasm either in Washington or Jerusalem and is a clear warning that the peace process in the region remains a fragile concept.

Of course, neither the West nor Israel are opposed to the settling of differences as a principle, any more than they incline to define certain states as enemies just for the hell of it. In a reasonable world, there is no need for Iran or Iraq to consider Israel an enemy - or indeed anything more important than a commercial or diplomatic rival in the region. Despite the peace process, Iraq and Iran have not only maintained but intensified the most virulent, illogical hatred and hostility towards Israel. They have no borders with Israel, no territorial disputes, and the

former excuse of "supporting the Palestinian cause" has been taken away by the Palestinians themselves sitting down to talk. The most Israel should logically expect now from two such distant states would be indifference.

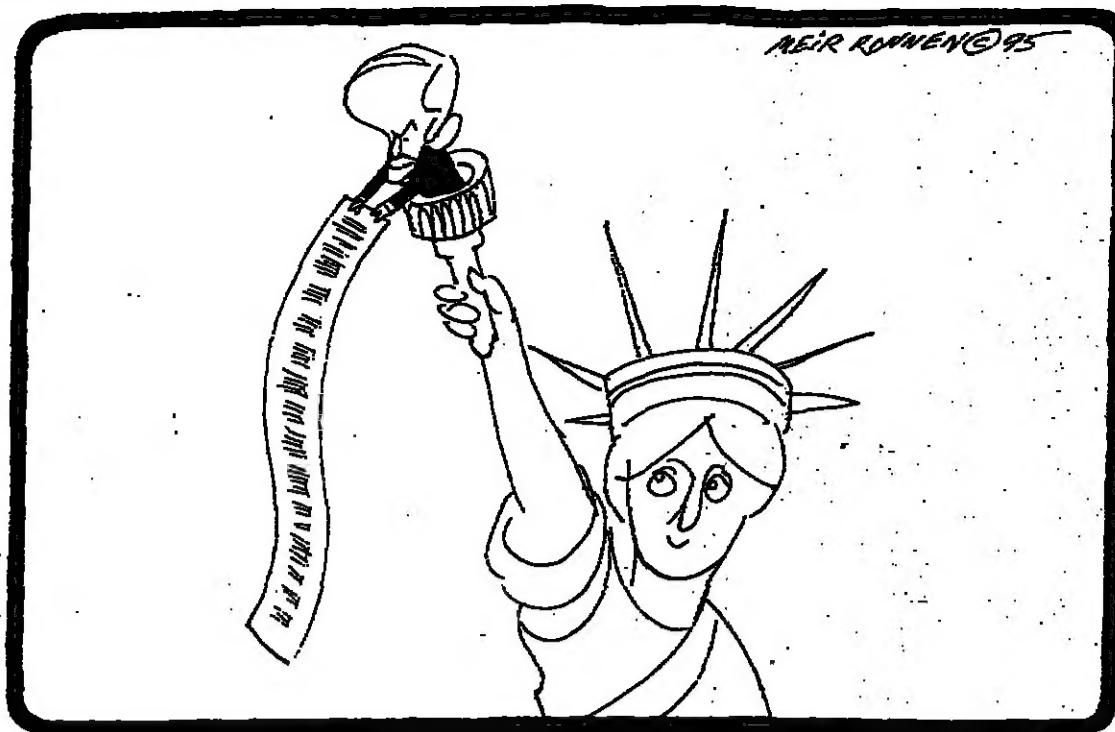
Saddam Hussein's regime, however, continues to talk of "killing the Jews one by one." His son, Uday, last week unleashed a burst of antisemitic diatribe unrivaled since the Nazi era. Not content with Gamel Abdel Nasser's ancient threat of driving the Jews into the sea, Hussein wittily suggested this was not good enough because some might swim. The only thing one can be sure about with Iraq is that it rarely utters a threat without some half-baked plan for carrying it out being devised in the background. Saddam's threat to burn half of Israel came just weeks before the invasion of Kuwait and we know now the extent of his drive to develop weapons to do just that.

The most recent Iraqi tirade against Israel coincided with the effort to mend fences with Iran and it must be grave cause for concern that the devious Saddam may now see an alliance with his old enemy as the only path to continue his megalomaniac ambitions. While continuing to plead poverty and misery because of UN sanctions, Saddam this week took time out to launch yet another "elite" military force - 15,000 "Saddam Commandos" - outside army control and with no other aim than to keep himself in power. Patently inspired by the former Securitate thugs of Romania, the Commandos will hopefully end up in the same trash can of history along with the Iraqi dictator.

It is harder to see what Iran can gain from a rapprochement with the world's number one pariah who has inflicted so much destruction on his neighbors, Persian and Arab alike. Diplomats hope it no more than a ploy to break out of Iran's growing isolation following the stiffening of US trade and oil sanctions and a tougher European attitude to its terrorist activities. If so, Tehran may quickly learn this is the wrong way to grab the world's attention.

Its insane drive to follow the path of Iraq in building weapons of mass destruction and in spouting the same belligerent rhetoric can, in the end, only lead Iran into the same dead end as Saddam led Iraq. Old stereotypes or not, it continues to be a matter of amazement that Middle Eastern states like Iran cannot work out the logical path to membership of the world community - reasonable behavior, cooperation instead of aggression, respect for international charters on diplomacy and human rights. And if they really want to be adventurous, they could try a little democracy for their people.

OPINION



Surrender on the Golan

WHICH general was it who determined a settlement on the Golan along these lines:

"Israel must hold the commanding terrain east of the Syrian boundary of June 4, 1967 which overlooks the Golan area. To provide a defense in-depth, Israel would need a strip about 15 miles wide extending from the border of Lebanon to the border of Jordan. This line would provide protection for the Israeli villages on the east bank of Lake Tiberias."

It wasn't former chief of staff Ehud Barak, who met with his Syrian counterpart Gen. Hikmat Shihabi in Washington several months ago. And we can be sure the current chief of staff, Amnon Lipkin-Shahak, won't lay down these lines when he meets his Syrian opposite number in the US later this month.

It was General Earle G. Wheeler, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, who determined these lines in a military assessment compiled at the request of the defense secretary and submitted to president Johnson three weeks after the end of the Six Day War.

This piece of history is relevant to the ongoing debate over the Golan. Today, 28 years later, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff isn't about to recommend that Israel stay on the Golan, the US assessment being that Israel no longer holds its presence there essential for the peace of Galilee.

The Syrians are pressuring the US to extend its role of honest broker, and get involved in the nitty gritty of the negotiations.

This friendly US administration wouldn't have crossed the red line of noninvolvement in the negotiations had Israel not indicated that presenting a total withdrawal as the result of US pressure was likely

MOSHE ZAK

to strengthen the supporters of withdrawal in the struggle against the opposers.

THE SYRIANS would rather be negotiating with the US than with Israel, because they want to use US pressure to speed up Israeli withdrawal. Hafez Assad is relying on a promise president Nixon made when he visited Damascus just before the demise of his ad-

ministration, that the US would support an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan.

Although Henry Kissinger subsequently made it clear to Syrian Foreign Minister Shara that the US couldn't force Israel to withdraw, the Syrians are convinced otherwise.

Israel has a later promise from US president Ford - to Rabin when he was premier in 1975 - supporting Israel's remaining on the Golan.

"The US will support the position that an overall settlement with Syria in the framework of a peace agreement must assure Israel's security from attack from the Golan Heights..." The US has not developed a final position on the borders. Should it do so it will give great weight to Israel's position that any peace agreement with Syria must be predicated on Israel remaining on the Golan Heights."

Before the Madrid conference, the Syrians tried to get a new promise from the US on Israeli withdrawal, but failed. The most they got in the letter of assurances was that the US did not recognize the Knesset's Golan Law.

At the opening session of the conference, president Bush talked about "territorial compromise," adding, to the Syrians' annoyance: "Throughout the Middle East, we seek a stable and enduring settlement. We've not defined what this means; indeed I make these points with no map showing where the final borders are to be drawn. Nevertheless, we believe territorial compromise is essential for peace. Boundaries should reflect the quality of both security and political arrangements."

The US supported an Israeli presence on the Golan or territorial compromise as long as the Israeli government held to these positions. But it won't be more Catholic than the pope regarding our security needs.

President Clinton is facing elections next year, and it is doubtful that he will be able to promise billions of dollars for sophisticated early-warning and defense systems to substitute for an Israeli presence on the Heights. Congress won't allot him the means, either before or after the elections.

The Americans would like to help Rabin return to power in 1996. But they probably won't be able to persuade the Syrians to agree to normalize relations with Israel in exchange for a limited Golan withdrawal before the Knesset elections.

As long as Assad believes that Israel and the US are under great pressure to sign an agreement, it will be hard to gain any concession from him on the Golan, either regarding the final border or the timetable for withdrawal.

The writer, a veteran journalist, comments on current affairs.

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Raise a glass

EFRAIM INBAR

ACCORDING to recent press reports, IDF General Staff officers were "shocked" to learn that paratroopers in Lebanon had celebrated after successfully eliminating an attacking Hizbullah terrorist cell. The celebration was roundly criticized by the senior army brass.

Yet such criticism indicates a loss of moral and organizational bearings. If it reflects a widespread new mood of political correctness, the IDF is doomed to suffer future failures.

In criticizing spontaneous expressions of relief at the elimination in battle of bitter enemies, the army's leadership is conveying a morally confusing message to soldiers in the field, and to Israeli society.

It is also eroding the moral imperative to defend ourselves - which includes taking the lives of our enemies.

It is perfectly moral to kill Hizbullah terrorists. They volunteer to join an extremist Islamic organization whose goals include destroying the Jewish state and killing Jews everywhere.

It is the IDF's duty to hunt down and eliminate as many of these people as possible in order to minimize the danger to Jewish lives.

The IDF has never savored death within the enemy's camp, but we should be happy to see our soldiers carrying out this job effectively and at little cost, while scrupulously refraining from harming innocent civilians.

IDF soldiers, and their commanders, are also entitled to be pleased with their performance.

The kind of unprecedented criticism recently reported is organizationally destructive, under-

Inhibiting soldiers' joy isn't just inhumane, it's counterproductive

mining the fighting spirit for which the IDF has become celebrated.

It takes a great effort to inculcate fighting spirit in soldiers; such spirit cannot be taken for granted.

THE IDF is a complex organization designed to employ violence effectively. Combat officers are trained to become experts in killing their opponents.

In southern Lebanon, the IDF's mission is to harass Hizbullah and weaken it by inflicting casualties and damaging its operational infrastructure. The IDF soldiers there work very hard, in a situation of continuous stress and imminent danger. Sometimes they lose comrades; occasionally they score hits against Hizbullah.

Expressing their satisfaction after such a hit is perfectly normal, as well as being a release of tension.

Drinking *lehayim* and earning short leaves has been the rule for those involved in successful operations. This is how a military organization rewards those who have done a good job.

Encouraging soldiers to cry at the funeral of a comrade but suppressing their joy after they survive a tough encounter with the enemy is inhumane. It is also counterproductive in the long term. Those who endanger their lives to win battles need to be rewarded.

When the climate surrounding the justice of one's cause is ambivalent, the result is demoralization and self-destruction.

Hopefully, the IDF has not embarked upon this road.

The writer is associate professor of political studies and director of the BESA Center for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University.

POSTSCRIPTS

A JILTED lover trying to commit suicide fired a bullet into his chin but killed his romantic rival instead when the slug ricocheted off his teeth into the head of the second man.

It took investigators in Bartow, Florida, almost four months to figure out what happened in the shooting before arresting Edward Hand, 33. He was charged with manslaughter, third-degree murder, kidnapping and assault.

Washington Post

NORTH KOREA is sending people around the world in search of rare elixirs, including bird droppings, to ensure leader Kim Jong-il lives a long life.

North Koreans are being sent to Taiwan, Russia, Japan and the Caucasus in search of specific medicinal remedies.

A team brought home swallows' droppings and a nest from Taiwan and another had obtained materials in China believed to be good for the lungs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DR. TARNESBY'S CAREER

Sir, - In your article of April 26, "Questions raised over endowment of chair at TAU," the last paragraph stated that I was introduced at the Tel Aviv ceremony as a member of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, but that the college denies that I have ever been a member. I had informed TAU in my curriculum vitae that I held a diploma issued by the RCOG in 1947. But I never stated that I was a member of the college. The chairman of the board of governors of TAU was apparently not aware of the difference between DRCOG and MRCOG and he erroneously introduced me as a member of the college.

The first paragraph of the article describes me as a Swiss physician. I am neither Swiss nor have I ever practiced medicine in Switzerland.

I have been a Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine since 1955. The remainder of your article is accurate, with reservations. I am one of a few British doctors with a doctorate in psychological medicine as well as the diploma of the RCOG. When the Abortion Act became law, unexpectedly, in England in 1968, the *Sunday Times* considered me especially qualified to give them an interview to explain it. They published this on the front page, which doubled the circulation of the paper for that Sunday. Immediately afterwards they commissioned me to write a paperback book, *Abortion Explained*, a *Sunday Times* Guide to Abortion within the Law, of which they sold a large edition. Neither of the publications drew any objections or criticism.

Stern magazine followed this up and asked for a similar interview, which I gave them with the proviso that nothing should be published, especially regarding honoraria or costs, without prior vetting by myself. They did not honor their promise - although they admitted having given it. Consequently I was condemned for "advertising" and suspended for one year for that "infamous conduct." My interview dealt with the inflammatory subject of abortion which in the eyes of many abortion antagonists had become

unfortunately legal. So I was condemned not for something I did, but for something I did not do. The suspension soon passed - and that was more than a quarter century ago.

In 1984, the same antagonists caught me again, not for transgressions of the Abortion Act, but instead on accusations of over-prescribing addictive drugs. An Oxford student had been admitted in deep coma with a heroin overdose. After discharge from hospital, he consulted me - for the first time - asking for help with his addiction. I prescribed methadone - not heroin - in gradually decreasing doses and eventually he made a full recovery. That led to several friends of his coming to see me for drug addiction, as well as other addicts, and I treated them similarly with a regimen of gradually diminishing doses, which was the recognized treatment at the time. Some of these young people were heavily addicted and required initial doses of a relatively high order. I was being watched and eventually accused of over-prescribing. There were insufficient facilities for these young people at public hospitals and clinics. My patients would

have stolen or prostituted themselves without my prescriptions, in order to obtain cash to feed their habits. That would have resulted in abuse for them, now it brought "abuse" for me. It was perfectly legal for me to issue methadone and other drug prescriptions for them. However, the opinions were weighted against me; after all, my conduct had previously been considered "infamous" for "advertising" and I was found to have "abused" my professional position and erased from the medical register. I was supposed to have acted "other than in the course of bona-fide treatment."

In fact the treatment - and if possible cure - of these young patients was my predominant aim and I completely reject the contention of non bona fides. I have never been indicted or charged before any court of justice for any crime whatsoever.

The question now arises why did you repeat all this so many years later, at a time when I have endowed a chair in family planning and fertility regulation - the first university chair in the world in this subject - at TAU.

H. PETER TARNESBY, MD
Tel Aviv (Switzerland).

NAME WITHDRAWN

Sir, - My attention has been drawn to an advertisement in your paper with regard to the recently proposed expropriation of land in and around Jerusalem. My name was among those cited in the advertisement, implying support for its message and for the expropriation.

I was neither consulted nor informed about the advertisement and would not have allowed any name to go on it had I been asked in advance.

It is quite wrong for any organization to try to make a political point, and a divisive political point at that, by using without permission the names of those who had earlier agreed to serve on its international committee. In the circumstances I would like to withdraw my name both from the advertisement and from the committee, and to apologize to those readers of *The Jerusalem Post* who have expressed their bewilderment that I should have supported such a one-sided and provocative point of view.

The unity of Jerusalem does not need the belittling of criticism, as in the advertisement, to enhance its cause.

LONDON.

THANK YOU

Sir, - Thank you, Tommy Lapid. I have clipped your article ("To my candid, envious friend," June 2) and will reread it whenever the government's misguided policies and actions get too much to bear. And thank you, *Jerusalem Post*, for printing his article. How about more from him?

DVORAH R. BLOCK
Jerusalem.

MARTIN GILBERT

MAKDA من الاداة

Mullahs try to win over friendless Albania

The Balkan country is hoping to join Europe, but is not closing the door to radical Islam, Tom Gross reports

FOREIGN Islamic radicals are building mosques and pouring money into Albania, Europe's only state with a nominally Moslem majority.

With Albania bordering one European country, Greece, and about 75 kilometers across the Adriatic Sea from another, Italy, there are fears that any foothold radicals gain in the region could have negative repercussions for European Jews and for Israel.

"Islamic militants are being very aggressive," says Gramoz Pashko, a former deputy prime minister and leader of the centrist Democratic Alliance opposition party. "They are trying to expand their support."

"Hundreds of new mosques are being built in the countryside. There are more mosques being built than roads."

"There are no mullahs yet," Pashko adds, "but we know some have been taken abroad for training. Heaven knows where - Tripoli, Tehran, Jeddah, Khartoum maybe. So far, thank God, I am happy to say that there are no signs Albanians want to embrace this kind of Islam. They want to be westernized."

The vast majority of Albanians would rather be welcomed wholeheartedly into mainstream, secular Europe, even through three-quarters of the population is Moslem. They make a soft target for exploitation by militants.

Despite some notable economic successes which the right-wing reformist government of President Sali Berisha has to its credit since the collapse of Europe's last Stalinist dictatorship, the country remains desperately poor. Unemployment is about 40 percent, and the average weekly wage is the equivalent of NIS 18.

Albanians have had to raise funds from wherever they can, often through smuggling on a massive scale or working illegally in Greece, earning almost NIS 1.2 billion, equaling half the state budget.



But with the European Union starting to crack down on the smuggling and Greece expelling illegal workers, this income is unlikely to be sustained much longer.

This is where the long-bearded mullahs buzzing around at Tirana Airport and elsewhere hope to step in. Although Western intelligence has concentrated on growing fundamentalist influence in Bosnia, in the long term at least, Albania is a threat too.

Albania is a secular country, a result of the communists' having proclaimed it to be the first officially atheistic state, but this hasn't stopped the radicals from pursuing their task with zeal. So far, the mosques that have been cropping up across the country are small and badly attended. But this may change if funds start to flow in. A very large mosque is being built in Shkoder, where a Moslem religious seminary is due to open shortly.

ALBANIANS ARE not likely to take up radical Islam for purely religious reasons, but nationalist considerations could make them

do so. There is no doubt they have had a difficult time this century, and they blame not just the communists, but Western powers, particularly Britain, allegedly in collusion with the Greeks and Serbs.

The London conference of Great Powers in 1913 handed half of Albania - the region of Kosovo - to Serbia, leaving as many Albanians living on the other side of Albania's present borders as in Albania itself. In Macedonia, 25 percent of the population is ethnic Albanian, in Kosovo over 90 percent. In the last few years, the Serbian occupation of Kosovo has become brutal and repressive by any international standards. But, whereas the Bosnians have plenty of sympathy from the West, as Albanians see it, scant attention is paid to Kosovo.

The Albanians are also having a rough time of it with the Greeks, who have started referring to southern Albania as "North Epirus," bordering on the Greek region of Epirus on the Ionian Sea. Most neutral observers agree that Greek nationalists ridiculously exaggerate the size

of the ethnic Greek minority in southern Albania.

With few if any friends in Europe, some Albanian politicians are ready to play the Moslem card, especially since the Orthodox Church is at the forefront of hard-line Greek nationalism.

"Most Albanians would far rather join the West," says Abdi Baleta, a member of the Albanian parliament. "But we have little choice but to look for friends elsewhere.... How do you think we feel when the British government says we're not allowed to help the Kosovans...?"

Baleta, who in the communist period served as Albania's ambassador to the UN but has now turned nationalist, represents a small but growing right-wing party and is a founder of the League of Moslem Friends.

Others dismiss the idea that there could be a return to an Islamic "heritage," or even if there was, that this would turn the traditionally tolerant Albanian people against Israel or Jews.

"When the president tried to make the country participate in the Conference of Islamic States

in order to raise more investment and support, which in any case has not come in the way he hoped it would, he was widely criticized within the country," says Gramoz Pashko, who is tipped by many to be prime minister following next year's elections.

On the left, Xhevat Lleshi of the opposition Socialist Party, agrees. "There is little sign of embracing Islam. We want to look west, and people are indifferent to Islam," says Lleshi, a member of parliament's foreign affairs committee and a professor of linguistics.

"But, he adds, "democracy is very young and we have many social problems. The West is not interested in letting us join them. We saw that already... in 1961 when we broke with Russia and in 1968 when we left the Warsaw Pact. The West could have found a way of incorporating us then, as they did the Yugoslavs, but instead, to keep Athens and Belgrade happy, they didn't and we were forced into China's arms. Perhaps next it could be into Islam's."

Tradition of tolerance saved country's Jews

ALBANIANS express friendliness toward Israel and Jews, and are universally proud of their record in World War II, when not a single Jew was handed over to the Nazis.

There are now only a handful of Jews left in Albania. During the first half of 1991, about 350 Jews were brought to Israel, leaving only about 15. These are thought to be a few elderly women, scattered throughout the country, and two others: one of Albania's foremost writers and translators (of German to Albanian), Robert Shvare, and Health Minister Maxim Cikuli.

"The fact Cikuli's mother is a Bulgarian Jew is totally irrelevant here. The Albanians are a remarkably tolerant people. No rival politician would even think of playing on his background, as might be done in Poland or Hungary," says Shvare (pronounced Schwartz), 72.

Jews fleeing the Spanish Inquisition settled in Albania during the early 16th century and established synagogues and communities in towns such as Elbasan, an important transit location for the Turkish army and traders. This century saw the arrival of Ashkenazim, like Shvare; he was born to Viennese Jews living at the time in Sarajevo who moved Tirana in 1929.

"It's certainly true that compared to almost all other European countries Albania has a very good record in the war," says Shvare. Albania, which was occupied by Italy, was the last country on Eichmann's list because it had the smallest number of Jews. Italian intelligence told Eichmann there were 200. In fact the community was larger, and there were also several hundred - Shvare thinks as many as 2,000 - Jewish refugees from Greece and Yugoslavia, who sought safety during the war and left again afterwards. "We were essentially able to lead a normal life," says Shvare. "Albanian tolerance was definitely a factor."

It was only after the war that Jews were treated as outsiders, but not on the orders of Albanian communists. "The KGB arrived at the end of the Forties, and the first question they asked was, 'How many Jews have you got?'" After that, although we suffered no special discrimination as such, we were watched closely, although many other groups of

the population were too."

Shvare says he had wanted to go to Israel in 1948 but was refused permission. "Now I feel too old to go and start all over again. I have my work, my reputation here. My sister is now a doctor in Karmiel, and my nephew is in the IDF, serving in Lebanon, which he's proud to do, even though his father is nominally an Albanian Moslem."

ALTHOUGH "Palestine" now has an embassy in Tirana, whereas Israel does not, relations between Albania and Israel are warming fast. Diplomatic relations were established for the first time in August 1991. Shimon Peres visited Albania in November 1993 and signed a cultural agreement, and an Israeli consulate is due to open in Tirana this year.

In March, Foreign Minister Alfred Serreqi, was the first senior Albanian official to visit Israel, holding talks with Yitzhak Rabin and other senior politicians.

"Albania would like Israeli help in a number of spheres, particularly agriculture and construction, and to offer temporary employment for Albanians. We're very interested in developing good relations with Israel and forming trade links," says Gramoz Pashko, a former deputy prime minister and leader of the centrist Democratic Alliance opposition party. Israel is training 20 Albanian agricultural students.

Even MP Abdi Baleta concludes that radical Islam isn't a natural fate for the Albanians. "We are not truly a Moslem nation. We converted to Islam to preserve our independence from the Slavs and Greeks, in a similar way that Arthur Koestler, in his book *The Thirteenth Tribe*, says the Khazars, squeezed between the encroaching Moslem and Orthodox Christian world, converted to Judaism some centuries earlier."

"But," says Baleta, "this doesn't mean we won't turn to it in the future. Even now in the Balkan crisis... Bosnia, Slovenia, Croatia are on the international agenda, but not Kosovo. The UN, Russia, the Western powers, no one is interested in helping us. We need friends wherever we can get them. And if the places they are to be found in Iran, Libya, Lebanon, then so be it." T.G.

Prayer returns to the 'forest of Oden'

IT was the first time in 55 years that the Shabbat-evening service was sung in Reichelsheim, a little town in the Odenwald ("forest of Oden") of central Germany.

Yissachar Granitzky, from Metzard in the Judean Hills, led the prayers on May 26. Taking part in the service were some 45 guests of the town - Holocaust survivors and their children from Israel, France and the US.

They had been invited by the town council for a 10-day visit labeled "Days of Encounter - Paths toward Reconciliation."

The town's young mayor, Gerd Lode, persuaded the town council to issue invitations and give a DM 30,000 (about NIS 64,000) grant to help with travel expenses.

The remaining costs were covered by contributions from groups and individuals, as well as churches, in the town.

Jews had lived in Reichelsheim for almost 300 years. They were fruit sellers, cattle and horse dealers, shoemakers, butchers, tailors and bakers in the town of about 2,000 inhabitants. They had a synagogue, a Hebrew elementary school, a cemetery and even a matza factory.

Lode told the visitors that, in the Sixties and Seventies, he had been responsible for the city's archives and for dealing with compensation claims. He vowed that if he were ever elected mayor, he would initiate such an expenses-paid visit.

In November 1988, the town erected a plaque in memory of its Jewish citizens who were victims of the Third Reich. Inscribed is a

JEWISH WORLD

passage from the Torah: "Be careful and watch yourselves closely, so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children, to their children after them."

More than 800 people attended a ceremony at which the founder of the Reichenberg Fellowship - an ecumenical Christian community committed to building bridges between peoples and nations - presented the visiting survivors with symbols of reconciliation: a loaf of bread, a flask of wine and a container of salt.

The Reichenberg Fellowship hopes to establish a teaching museum at the youth center it is building in the center of town, to keep alive the memory of the Jewish families who once lived there.

Woman confesses: I pulled the plug on the power

INTER ALIA
MARIAN LEBOR

I have to own up. I can't let the whole country think a brush fire was responsible for Thursday's blackout. This is what really happened.

I had just had lunch with my children and, being English, I wanted a good, strong cup of tea. I put the kettle on. The TV, video and oven were on and, as I pressed the kettle's switch, there was a power cut.

For some reason, the kettle is always the straw that breaks the camel's back. I went straight to our fuse box. I know my way around our power circuit by now. In England, I hardly knew where our fuse box was; power cuts were a distant memory from the



1970s industrial-labor strife.

In our house in Ra'anana they happen frequently, especially if I put the kettle on while someone is using a hair drier. I digress. The fuse box yielded no immediate answer. I didn't recall receiving

ing a notice about a forthcoming cut in electricity. I asked my neighbor. They had no power either. Apparently, my thirst shortened the street.

I drove my daughter to her jazz class. The traffic lights were out.

This was getting serious. Northern Ra'anana was without electricity. The jazz teacher told me the south was affected, too. I didn't dare tell her about my cup of tea.

I went on to my optometrist's appointment. I wondered if he would be there. He was. "Have you heard?" he asked me. "There is no electricity in the whole of Israel except for Haifa." I gulped. "I'm sorry, I can't even offer you a cup of tea," he said, thinking he was being funny. I beat a hasty retreat.

So there it is. I've kept it to myself all weekend, but now I'm telling all. My kettle wreaked havoc on the whole nation. From now on, I'm drinking only iced tea in the middle of the day.

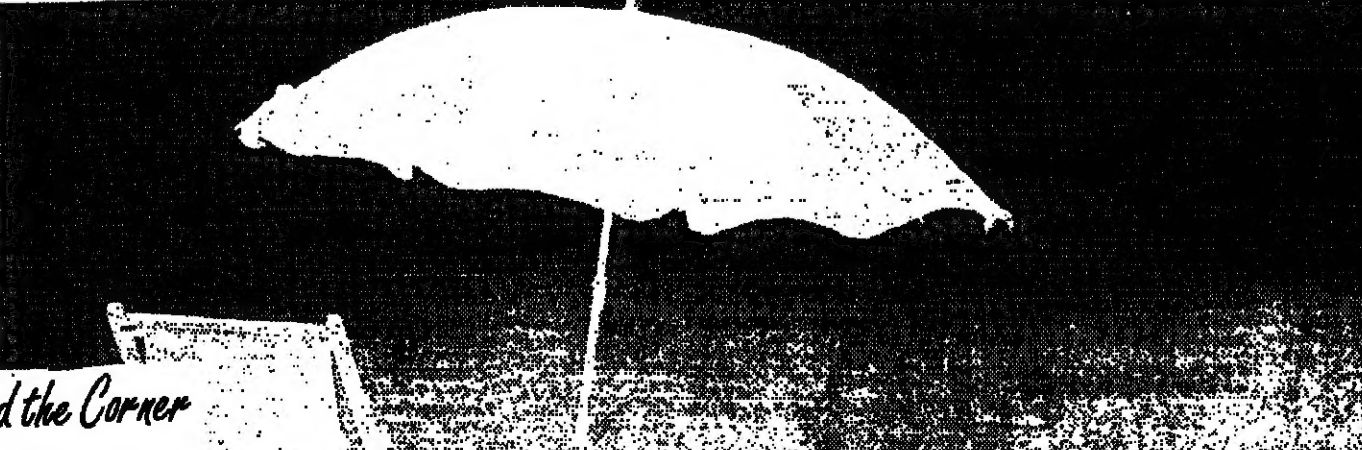
I hope all of you stuck in elevators, traffic jams and stuffy offices will forgive me.

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The Jerusalem Post
Raise a glass
EFFRAIM INBAR
ACCORDING to press reports, the Israel Staff Office "shocked" to learn that troops in Lebanon are being attacked by a terrorist cell. The cell, reportedly criticized by the army brass.
Yet such criticism is loss of moral and bearings. If it reflects spread new mood of pessimism, the IDF is suffering future failures.
In criticizing operations of relief in the region, the army's leadership is giving a morally confusing message to soldiers in the Israeli society.
It is also eroding the cooperative to defend the which includes taking to our enemies.
It is perfectly moral to join an extremist organization whose goals are destroying the Jewish state,ing Jews everywhere.
It is the IDF's duty to down and eliminate these people as possible to minimize the danger to lives.
The IDF has never death within the camp but we should be happy soldiers carrying out their duty and at the same time, scrupulously refraining from innocent civilians.
IDF soldiers are also murderers, and also are pleased with their part.
The kind of organizational criticism requires organizational demands.
Inhibiting solid joy isn't just inhumane, it's counterproductive.
mining the fighting spirit which the IDF has been bred.
It takes a great deal of courage to fight such a war.
THE IDF is a corporation designed to be effective. Combat is trained to become reality in their operations.
In southern Lebanon, IDF's mission is to annihilate and weaken a military and political structure. It is a mission that requires a high level of discipline and a high level of commitment. It is a mission that requires a high level of sacrifice and a high level of courage.
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BUSINESS & FINANCE

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14, 1995

Shohat: Central bank holding back sale of Bank Hapoalim

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat blasted the Bank of Israel yesterday for dragging its feet over the approval of the groups vying to buy a controlling stake of Bank Hapoalim.

In a letter to Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel, Shohat noted that MI Holdings, the government firm in charge of selling state-owned banks, had forwarded already in mid-March the information the central bank needs to approve the bidders' participation in the tender.

The Bank of Israel flatly denied there was any delay in the review of the two investor groups, noting that material the bank requested from the bidders was only received last month.

In addition, the central bank pointed out that the Bank Supervision Department set up two special teams whose sole occupation is to check on the groups to speed up the approval process.

The Bank of Israel estimates it

JOSE ROSENFELD

will take between two and 2½ months to complete the review if all the necessary documentation is in the bank's hands.

However, it is very likely that additional information will be required, and the time it takes to receive it will be up to the bidders.

Furthermore, the bank anticipates possible changes in the distribution of control among each group's members, which will further delay approval.

A review of this type is complicated, as it must go over the financial status of each of the group's members and those of groups under their control, which at times consist of tens of linked firms, the Bank of Israel said.

In addition, the central bank is reviewing the business past of the groups' members.

The two bidding groups are made up of both local and foreign

investors, with complexly structured companies, which require separate and individual review.

The Bank of Israel said it is using private detectives specializing in financial investigations both here and abroad to assist in performing an extensive review.

Noting with irony the reversal of roles, the Bank of Israel congratulated the Treasury, which it usually criticizes for dragging its feet on privatization, for its interest in speeding up privatization.

The two groups vying for Hapoalim are the Renaissance consortium and the Fishman group.

The Renaissance consortium includes the Claridge group, controlled by the Bronfman family; the investment bank Goldman Sachs; George Soros and Ted Arison.

The Fishman group, headed by Eliezer Fishman, includes the investment bank Bear Stearns, Uzi Tzucker and the Steinmetz family.

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Tel Aviv District Court yesterday rejected a suit submitted by Shalom Center Towers against David Azrieli's winning bid for the Tel Aviv Shalom Center project, the country's largest commercial project.

The NIS 75 million suit was filed against the Tel Aviv Municipality and Canit Hashalom, which is owned by Azrieli.

Judge Uri Strausman instructed the plaintiff to pay court expenses of NIS 200,000 to the Tel Aviv Municipality and another NIS 200,000 to Azrieli and Canit Hashalom.

The court also ruled that the copyright on the plans belong to architect Eli Attia, who designed the project.

The Shalom Center filed the suit after losing the tender to build the huge real estate project.

The tender was won by Canit Hashalom, which presented the municipality with a plan designed by Attia four years ago.

Shortly after winning the tender, Attia was fired from Canit after a series of arguments



Azrieli: The project is expected to open in four years.

with Azrieli regarding the credit he deserved for designing the project.

In the suit, Shalom Center claimed the municipality preferred Canit's proposal over theirs because of Attia's design and presumed continued involve-

ment with the project. Shalom Center said its project was preferable from a purely economic standpoint.

Once Canit fired Attia, the plaintiffs argued the city was not obliged to keep its contract with Canit.

The plaintiff demanded that Canit's victory in the tender be voided or that Shalom Center be declared the winner.

Shalom Center asked the municipality to pay compensation for its investment in preparing development plans and also for profits it will lose from not receiving the contract.

Strausman ruled, however, that the tender was conducted fairly.

He added that it is in the public interest for Canit to go ahead with its development plans.

Speaking at a press conference immediately after the ruling, Azrieli said the project is expected to open in four years. So far, the developers have invested NIS 80m.

The Shalom Center will have three large towers - 33, 37, and 42 stories tall - and cover 33 dunams between the Ayalon Highway and Derech Petah Tikva.

It will include a mall with 160 stores, more than 3,500 underground parking spaces and a small number of private apartments.

Ministry objects to sale of Tahal to Mekorot

Tsur: Allowing national water carrier to purchase company would create a conflict of interests

THE Agriculture Ministry and Government Companies Authority said they will object to the sale of a stake in Tahal water development company to Mekorot, since it presents a conflict of interests.

Amos Epstein - general manager of Mekorot, the national water carrier - informed the Gov-

ernment Companies Authority yesterday of the company's plans to purchase a 25 percent stake in Tahal.

Epstein said the purchase will increase Mekorot's activities in the water sector.

But Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tsur said Mekorot's purchase

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

of Tahal shares will increase its monopoly in the water field, adding it is necessary to separate water planning and supply activities.

He also objected to the sale of one government-owned company to another, noting that the point

of selling Tahal was to get it out of government hands.

Tahal is engaged in water planning here and abroad.

Earlier this week, the government decided to sell off its holdings in Tahal to a private investor.

The government had consid-

ered selling 100% of Tahal's stock in two stages through a public offering on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. However, it never pursued that option.

The Water Commission and Government Companies Authority will consolidate a plan during the next few weeks

Country's terms of trade improve in first quarter

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE country's terms of trade improved in the first quarter after consistently dropping in the preceding four quarters, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

The prices of imported goods rose 2.2%, compared with a sharper 4.2% increase in export prices.

As a result, the terms of trade index climbed 1.8%, following a 1.9% drop in the fourth quarter.

Prices of agricultural export goods shot up 19%, contributing approximately one-third to the increase in export prices.

Prices of flower exports soared 62% and vegetables 40%, while citrus export prices fell 5%.

Industrial export prices, excluding diamonds, grew 1.9% in the first quarter after rising a

more moderate 0.6% in the previous quarter.

Export prices of mining and quarrying, rubber and plastic, machinery and equipment, wood, furniture, paper and print products registered increases of between 5% and 9%.

Prices of telecommunication and quality control equipment exports rose a more moderate 3% to 4%, as did food (2.8%), metal products (2.5%) and jewelry (2%).

Raw material imports, excluding diamonds and fuel, rose 5% following a 4% increase in the previous quarter, reflecting higher world commodity prices.

Both consumer and investment good import prices went up

2.6%.

Diamond export prices jumped 6.6% after dropping 3.7% in the fourth quarter.

By contrast, diamond import prices tumbled 5.6%, following a 1.6% drop in the previous quarter.

Quantitative industrial exports decreased 4% after rising 11% in the previous quarter.

The drop was the result of a 50% fall in freight vehicle exports, which are highly volatile.

Similarly, quantitative exports of telecommunication and electronic equipment and of machinery and equipment dropped between 7% and 8%.

The volume of imports, excluding diamonds and fuel, rose only 1% after jumping 10% in the fourth quarter.

ITT to spin off businesses into three separate firms

NEW YORK (Reuters) - ITT Corp., once considered the model of a sprawling American conglomerate, said yesterday it planned to split itself into three separate businesses in one of the biggest corporate restructurings ever.

In its latest reshuffling of assets, the owner of the Sheraton Hotels, the ITT Hartford insurance group and other properties said it will spin off the businesses to shareholders to create three separate, publicly owned companies.

The businesses, which now have combined sales of about \$25 billion, will be grouped into three categories - insurance services, industrial products, and hospitality, entertainment and information services.

"By having three publicly traded companies, it will really highlight the value this company has created over the past 10 years," said Salomon Brothers analyst Jay Cohen.

He said said the breakup will allow the different managements

to better focus on their businesses and give managers more flexibility.

Under the plan, ITT said holders of its common stock will own one share of stock of each of the three companies.

The three companies will be ITT Hartford, its current insurance business; ITT Industries Inc., the automotive, defense and electronics and fluid technology business; and the new ITT Corp., which will hold the company's hotel, gambling and sports interests.

The new ITT Corp. will be made up of ITT Sheraton Corp., ITT's interest in CIGA, Caesars World Inc., ITT's interest in Madison Square Garden and the New York Knicks and Rangers professional basketball and hockey teams, ITT World Directories Inc. and ITT's interest in ITT Educational Services Inc.

ITT chairman Rand Araskog, who is also president and chief executive, will become chairman and chief executive of the new ITT Corp.

IMF team gives Jordan upbeat appraisal

AMMAN (Reuters) - An International Monetary Fund (IMF) team examining Jordan's economic performance gave an upbeat appraisal yesterday of both current policy and the kingdom's long-term prospects.

"Now they probably have a greater vision of really where they want to go and how to go about it," Paul Chabrier, director of the IMF's Middle Eastern Department, said in an interview.

Chabrier, the most senior member of an IMF team in Amman for an annual economic review with government officials, said Jordan was meeting its targets and creating the climate needed to foster future economic development.

"They are establishing the indispensable basis to move forward with their structural reforms and I think it is where the focus has to be," he said. "They recognize they have to go relatively fast because they cannot [afford to] be left behind."

Jordan's reforms under the guidance of the IMF follow an economic crisis in 1989 and the Gulf War of 1991 that left the kingdom with low growth, soaring inflation and rapidly mounting debts.

In contrast, Chabrier said, Jordan now enjoyed double digit export growth, a mix of imports showing healthy investment in capital goods, inflation of less than four percent and solid GDP growth of nearly 6% last year.

Chabrier said problems remained, such as a bloated public service and bureaucratic obstacles to private business, and said the government must still reform the extensive system of state subsidies.

But the IMF team said it had been told that some changes to encourage investment, such as new laws governing companies and the stock exchange, would be passed by cabinet and be presented to parliament for approval before the end of the month.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Israel Credit Card, VISA in joint venture with computer firms: Israel Credit Card (ICC) -VISA (Israel), along with computer firms Micro-Daf and TIS, have set up a joint venture in the data entry and data scanning field. The new company, Israel Super Image (ISI) will provide services in image preparation, scanning, storage and retrieval using Opti-KAL advanced imaging technology. ICC-VISA has been using the Opti-KAL system, which allows automatic optical readings of hand-written VISA credit slips for two years.

Rachel Neiman

Shohat meets with kibbutz leaders on debt arrangement: Finance Minister Avraham Shohat met yesterday with kibbutz leaders to try to get them to adopt a legally binding commitment for wealthier kibbutzim to assist weaker ones as required by the government-approved NIS 6 billion kibbutz debt arrangement.

According to the Treasury, kibbutz movement leaders warned that although the issue of Israel Lands Administration Directive 441, which allows kibbutzim to turn agricultural land into commercial property for their business activity, is not to be related to the debt write-off, it could lead the wealthier kibbutzim not to agree to participate. Shohat said the failure of the kibbutzim to accept the prime minister's terms on 441 will torpedo the whole arrangement.

Jose Rosenfeld

Lehman Brothers - Israel a promising emerging market: Israel is "one of the most promising of the emerging markets anywhere," according to June's Lehman Brothers Global Economics report. LBGE forecasts a five percent rise in GDP, which is above government forecasts of between 4% and 5%.

The report also adjusted inflation forecasts downwards to between 6% and 7%, instead of 8.2%. Additionally, the report said the shekel "appears to have room for depreciation without creating any unwanted inflationary damage." Trade balance, however, worsened in the first quarter and "seems headed for a \$9 billion to \$10b. deficit this year," instead of the previously forecast \$8.5b.

Rachel Neiman

Alon Fuel has released an update on its market strategy until the end of the year, saying it wants to combine its gas stations with commercial centers that would provide travel and tourism services. Alon is owned by Africa Israel (26%), the Kibbutz Purchasing Organization and Hamashbir Hamerkazi (37%) and Bielsol (37%), which is jointly owned by businessmen David Weissman and Shraga Biran.

There are currently 10 Alon fuel stations in operation. The company expects to have 18 by the end of the year at a total investment of \$30 million. Alon also operates 70 internal fuel stations within kibbutzim, moshavim and factories. This number is expected to increase to 90 by the end of the year.

Alon signed a deal with Super-Sol to establish a chain of food markets in gas stations and is in talks with Holiday Inn to set up a chain of roadside motels.

Rachel Neiman

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patash (foreign currency deposit rates) (13.6.95)				
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS	
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	5.125	5.125	5.250	
German mark (DM 200,000)	4.825	4.875	5.375	
French franc (FF 200,000)	3.000	3.000	3.250	
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	2.125	2.125	2.500	
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—	

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (13.6.95)				
Currency basket	Buy	Sell	Banknotes	Rep. Rates
U.S. dollar	3.4577	3.4581	2.80	3.06
German mark	2.9576	3.0054	2.80	2.9830
French franc	2.1158	2.1498	2.07	2.18
Japanese yen (100)	4.7269	4.8262	4.54	4.67
Dutch florin	0.6018	0.6114	0.59	0.62
Swiss franc	3.5252	3.5582	3.48	3.54
Swedish krona	1.9223	1.9229	1.85	1.95
British pound	2.5585	2.6100	2.52	2.58
Italian lira	0.4028	0.4051	0.40	0.41
Spanish peseta	0.4754	0.4831	0.46	0.48
Portuguese escudo	0.3421	0.3509	0.33	0.35
Belgian franc	0.6840	0.7012	0.67	0.72
Canadian dollar	2.1436	2.1592	2.10	2.11
Australian dollar	2.1287	2.1831	2.09	2.20
S. African rand	0.8257	0.8197	1.01	1.07
Israeli shekel (10)	1.0303	1.0470	0.73	0.82
Argentine austral (10)	3.0115	3.0601	2.95	3.11
Indian rupee (100)	1.7764	1.8051	1.74	1.78
Jordanian dinar	—	—	—	—
Egyptian pound	—	—	—	—
Irish punt	3.9050	3.9880	—	—
Spanish peseta (100)	4.8344	4.9104	4.78	4.89
—	2.4363	2.4756	2.39	2.51

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

SOURCE: BANK LEUM



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הקדמה מאלו

Bubka's appearance expected to give Hapoel Games a lift

China's Le Jingyi, French duo set all-comers swim records

HEATHER CHAIT
and JOEL GORDIN

"ME speak Hebrew?" exclaims a flabbergasted Sergei Bubka when requested by an Army Radio reporter to say "Boker tov, Israel."

Nevertheless, the affable world champion pole vaulter rises to the occasion and blurts out the words, to popular applause at yesterday's news conference held at Ben-Gurion Airport marking his arrival for tomorrow's Hapoel Games' athletic event at Hadar Yosef stadium.

On his first trip to Israel, Ukrainian Bubka, who has broken his record 34 times and holds the outdoor record at 6.14 meters, has an endearing ability of making light of his outstanding achievements.

"I'm just trying to do my job well and professionally and obviously I'm doing something not bad," he says, displaying his gold medal at the Seoul Olympics, four world championship titles and an indoor record of 6.15m.

But living out of suitcases, press conferences and consistent training take their toll even on one of the world's greatest athletes. "There's so much pressure. That's my biggest enemy. I never have enough time to recover and I always have to be fresh."

When pressed on a future retirement date, the 32-year-old says, "Two or three more years, depending on my results."

Skirting the issue of his \$70,000 paycheck for tomorrow night's performance (and an additional \$100,000 for breaking his record), Bubka says, "Sport, not money or business, is most important. I broke records in the former Soviet Union when the money went straight to the sports federations."

So, will there be a new world record at Hadar Yosef? "I'll try my best. A lot depends on the facilities



HIGH HOPES - Pole vault champ Sergei Bubka says he'll try to break his own world record in the Hapoel Games.

and the atmosphere.

"I'll be happy with 6m!"

Meanwhile, in yesterday's action, French swimmers Christophe Kalfajun and Franck Esposito and Chinese world record holder Le Jingyi established Israeli all-comers records on the first day of the swimming championships at the Tel Aviv University swimming pool.

Esposito almost smashed the two-minute mark for the 100m butterfly, finishing in 2:00.32. The previous

record of 2:00.99, was held by Belgian Stefan Manne. Kalfajun easily defeated Israeli record holder Yoav Bruck in the 50m freestyle in an excellent time of 22.84 seconds. Bruck was second in 22.88.

Le did not need much of an effort to win the 50m freestyle in 26.30, a long way behind her world record of 24.51 seconds.

The Israeli swimmers disappointed and were way off their best form. Moran Zommerfeld was the only

Israeli who won a race - the 400m freestyle in the slow time of 4:01.08.

Ori Shiff beat Vadim Alexei in the 100m breaststroke in 1:04.03, thus achieving the minimum to take part in the European champions in Vienna this summer. They were both beaten by the Czech Republic's Daniel Malek in 1:03.93.

In all, Romania won four gold medals, France and the Czech Republic two each, while Israel, Slovakia and China all earned one.

Christie: I'm retiring

British sprinter says he won't go to Atlanta

LONDON (Reuters) - Linford Christie, the most successful European sprinter ever, has announced he will not defend his Olympic 100 meters title in Atlanta next year because of media harassment.

Christie, 35, said on a television sports program on Monday night he would retire at the end of the season.

In an emotional outburst near the end of the program, Christie said: "At the end of the season, that's it, I'm finished. I'll never wear a running vest again. I've had enough, I can't take it any more."

Christie has been beaten in four of his five races this season and has been deadlocked in negotiations with the British Athletic Federation (BAF) over his financial demands for running in this season's major domestic meetings.

On the program he said the British media had been obsessed with his age and seemed interested only in when he was retiring.

"The British media are the scourge," he said. "There is so much pressure from the media. 'I used to love it but it doesn't mean that much to me any more. I'm finishing this season. I'm definitely not going to the Olympic Games.'"

On Monday Christie was named to run the 100 and 200 meters in the European Cup in Lille, France, this month but the BAF did not reappoint him as team captain, saying a decision would be made later in the week.

In what seemed a direct reaction to his outburst, the BAF confirmed yesterday he would be captain for the rest of the season.

NBA owners threaten lockout

DALLAS (AP) - NBA owners are threatening to impose a player lockout immediately after the NBA Finals if no collective bargaining agreement is reached by then, the Dallas Morning News said in Monday's editions.

That would mean a lockout could come as early as tomorrow because the Houston Rockets have taken a 3-0 lead over the Orlando Magic.

NBA Commissioner David

Stern would neither confirm nor deny the report.

"Our teams have been fully briefed on the options available to the Labor Relations Committee if no agreement is reached by the end of the Finals," Stern said Sunday. "We still hope that such an agreement is obtainable."

The newspaper quoted unidentified NBA sources as saying that a formal directive has been sent to every club, stating that the

league would conduct its draft as scheduled on June 28, but all other business - summer training camps, trades, contract extensions and free-agent signings - will stop.

The Denver Post, which also carried a report on the directive in its editions Monday, said the league has decided not to wait for a resumption of talks before taking action, calling for a lockout now.

Lancashire heads to Benson & Hedges final

LONDON (Reuters) - Pakistan all-rounder Wasim Akram blasted 64 off just 47 balls to lift Lancashire to a remarkable two-wicket Benson and Hedges Cup victory over Worcestershire yesterday.

Worcestershire's supporters were already planning their third consecutive trip to Lord's following last year's double visit for the Benson and Hedges and Natwest Trophy finals when Neil Fairbrother was sixth out.

At that stage Lancashire needed 127 off 17 overs with only Akram's raw determination keeping the faint hopes of the team flickering.

But he transformed the Worcester contest during a crucial 48th over.

Neal Radford was clubbed for 19 runs - 15 of them going to Akram, who pulled one huge six into the trees at midwicket.

Phil Newport returned to bowl Lancashire's hero after he and Warren Hegg had put on 69 in six overs but by then the damage had been done.

Cool-headed tailenders Hegg and Gary Yates made sure Akram's brilliant work was not wasted, collecting the 24 runs still needed as Lancashire triumphed with four deliveries to spare.

At Worcester: Lancashire beat Worcestershire by two wickets. Worcestershire 261-5 (innings closed G.Hick 109, T.Moody 75 not out,

T.Curtis 50). Lancashire 264-8 in 54.2 overs (Wasim Akram 64).

At Canterbury: Kent 250-9 (innings closed M.Ballham 52) v Somerset. Bad light stopped play, match resumes today.

Lancashire will meet Kent or Somerset in the final at Lord's on Saturday, July 15.

Monday's County Championship Results:

At Chelmsford: Essex beat Durham by 179 runs. Essex 373 and 243 (D.Robinson 110; A.Walker 6-59). Durham 288 and 149. Essex 24 points, Durham 6.

At Canterbury: Gloucestershire beat Kent by 104 runs. Gloucestershire 321 and 266-8 declared (M.Lynch 114, R.Dawson 58). Kent 137 and 346 (M.Benson 102, G.Cowdrey 71). Gloucestershire 23 points, Kent 4.

At Edgbaston: Match drawn. Warwickshire 248 and 332-6 declared (R.Twoes 131 not out, N.Knight 74, D.Brown 50). Sussex 361 and 47-1. Warwickshire 5 points, Sussex 8.

At Nottingham: Worcestershire beat Nottinghamshire by three wickets. Nottinghamshire 301 and 319 (P.Johnson 73, G.Archard 61, T.Robinson 51). Worcestershire 361 and 263-7 (T.Moody 106, G.Haynes 57). Worcestershire 23 points, Nottinghamshire 5.

At The Oval: Somerset beat Surrey by five wickets. Surrey 221 and 419-9 declared (M.Butterick 102, A.Smith 88, D.Ward 51). Somerset 260 and 383-5 (P.Bowler 132 not out, M.Latham 75, G.Rose 51). Somerset 23 points, Surrey 5.

At Old Trafford: Match drawn. Lancashire 417 and 338-3 declared (J.Gallian 158, J.Crawley 108). Glamorgan 475 and 233-7 (M.Maynard 67, M.Watson 4-51). Lancashire 6 points, Glamorgan 8.

MAJOR LEAGUE STANDINGS

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Philadelphia	26	14	.657	0
Montreal	25	15	.625	1
New York	23	17	.575	3
Florida	18	22	.450	8
Atlanta	13	27	.325	13

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cincinnati	29	14	.674	0
Chicago	23	19	.548	6
Houston	19	23	.452	10
St. Louis	18	24	.432	11
Pittsburgh	16	25	.390	12

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Colorado	25	19	.568	0
San Francisco	23	21	.523	2
San Diego	20	22	.476	4
Los Angeles	20	23	.465	4.5

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Boston	26	16	.619	0
Detroit	20	24	.455	6
Calgary	17	27	.389	9
Toronto	17	27	.389	9
New York	16	25	.391	9.5

Central Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Cleveland	31	11	.738	0
Kansas City	23	18	.561	7.5
Minnesota	18	24	.429	13
Chicago	18	24	.429	13
Seattle	12	32	.273	20

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Texas	27	17	.614	0
California	26	18	.591	1
Oakland	24	20	.545	3
Seattle	23	20	.538	3.5

MONDAY'S NL RESULTS:

Cincinnati 11, Colorado 6

MONDAY'S AL RESULTS:

Cleveland 4, Baltimore 3

Detroit 6, New York 1

Texas 4, Milwaukee 2

Toronto 4, Boston 3 (12)

California 9, Minnesota 1

Oakland 1, Chicago 0

Kansas City 10, Seattle 9

Winning the playoffs was no breeze for Wings

DETROIT (AP) - It seems to be the nature of playoff hockey that the best team doesn't always win. Just ask the Detroit Red Wings, who took a number of pratfalls before this year.

The reason is goaltending. A hot goalie can dominate a best-of-7 series, perhaps more than any other athlete in any other sport.

Remember the 1994 playoffs? A virtual unknown named Arturs Irbe had a goals-against average of 3.91. Yet he was able to tie the Red Wings in knots when it counted and the upstart San Jose Sharks eliminated Detroit 4-3 in the first round.

The spectacular play of Chicago goaltender Ed Belfour in Game 5 of the Western Conference Finals Sunday night must have given the Red Wings flashbacks.

Detroit won the game and the series on Vyacheslav Kozlov's goal at 2:25 of the second

overtime. But it took a superb play to finally end the excitement.

"That was the best goaltending we have seen all year, and we knew it was going to have to be a special kind of shot to beat him," Detroit coach Scotty Bowman said. "Both goaltenders were excellent."

The Red Wings were head and shoulders above the rest of the NHL during the abbreviated season. They finished 33-11-4, then breezed through the first two rounds of the playoffs against Dallas and San Jose.

Chicago, at least on paper, didn't appear to pose much of a threat, either. After all, the Red Wings were 4-1 against the Blackhawks during the season.

But the playoffs are different, and Belfour made a difference.

"Eddie played well," Chicago coach Darryl Sutter said. "I mean, the whole team did."

What more can you ask? He gave us the chance to go to the Stanley Cup finals. We couldn't get by the Detroit Red Wings."

Every time the Red Wings thought they had Belfour down, he got back up. Every time they tried to break his heart, Belfour proved he was tougher than they thought. There were three overtime games in the series, and one that was decided on a goal with 1:45 remaining.

Although they won the series in five games, the Red Wings led for only 16 minutes.

"It's amazing," Bowman said. "I can't ever remember a series where we won after being in the lead for such a small amount of time."

The Red Wings haven't won the Stanley Cup championship in 40 years, the longest dry spell in the NHL. They last appeared in the finals in 1966 when the Red Wings lost to the Montreal Canadiens.

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Liba'i asks for explanation of demolition in east Jerusalem

Jerusalem Post Staff

ACTING Interior Minister David Liba'i has asked the attorney-general to examine the legality of housing demolitions planned in eastern Jerusalem, "before deciding on enforcing the law" against homes built illegally, the ministry said in a statement last night.

Six Isawiya residents were lightly injured yesterday when police dispersed them while they tried to prevent Interior Ministry officials from demolishing a home built illegally in the village.

Khaled Zighari and Brian Hendler, free-lance photographers who provide pictures for *The Jerusalem Post*, were lightly injured by stones and treated in hospital.

Police fired tear gas and rubber bullets at what they said were hundreds of villagers who came to prevent the one-story structure from

being demolished by a bulldozer.

After the incident, Liba'i said: "Today it is not possible to ignore the international ramifications of the time and place of demolitions. It is therefore necessary to seriously consider all of the relevant factors in every case."

The Isawiya confrontation began when dozens of Interior Ministry officials ringed the hilltop home of Hafiza and Mohammed Obeid yesterday morning. The ministry targeted the house for demolition because it was built without a permit. The Obeids said they applied for a building permit, but were turned down because their plot of land is in an area of Isawiya not zoned for construction.

Within minutes, dozens of residents had gathered and began throw-



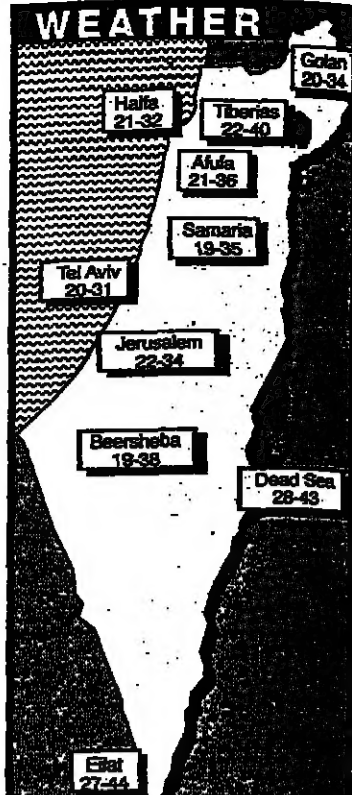
Press photographer Brian Hendler receives first aid yesterday from a border policeman after being struck in the head by a rock while photographing the demonstration at Isawiya. (Flash 90)

ing stones. Border Police patrols arrived on the scene and called on the residents to disperse. When they did not, the policemen began firing rub-

ber bullets and tear gas. After the protesters dispersed, the ministry officials began removing articles from the family's home. The

family tried to prevent the demolition, but the bulldozers quickly knocked the building over. Isawiya residents complained that

all their requests to build in the village have been rejected. They said 10 people lived in the house that was destroyed.



Forecast: Sharav. Humid on the coasts.

AROUND THE WORLD

	C	F		C	F
Amsterdam	10	50	London	10	50
Berlin	10	50	Madrid	10	50
Brussels	10	50	Moscow	10	50
Geneva	10	50	New York	10	50
Paris	10	50	Osaka	10	50
Rome	10	50	Tokyo	10	50
Tel Aviv	20	68			
Jerusalem	22	72			
Beersheva	19	66			
Dead Sea	26	79			

Rafael dismissals frozen

JOSE ROSENFELD

TWO days before the firings of 350 Rafael employees became effective, the Treasury and the Histadrut's Trade Union Section Chairman Amir Perez agreed to freeze the dismissals for 45 days.

The Histadrut also agreed to suspend the work sanctions, to allow negotiations between the two sides to go ahead.

The freeze was agreed to after thousands of Rafael workers blocked the Acre-Haifa road early yesterday morning. After an hour, the workers gathered at Rafael's entrance for a protest meeting at which they called for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to "go home." The meeting was attended by Likud MK David Levy.

The government and the workers had reached an impasse over negotiations on Rafael's recovery program and its transformation into a state firm. In addition, the sides were not able to agree on a severance package for fired employees.

As a result, the government turned to the Civil Service Commission's service committee last month to approve the firing of 350 Rafael workers. The committee subsequently decided to fire them as of midnight tomorrow.

Government employees fired through the service committee procedure only receive severance pay based on their actual salary.

House panel against outside probe of army accidents

EVELYN GORDON

THERE is no justification for having army training accidents investigated by anyone except the army, the Knesset State Control Committee said in its annual report on the defense system.

The report contains the committee's conclusions and recommendations on defense-related subjects in the 1994 state comptroller's report.

The committee noted that the number of training accidents has

gradually declined over the past 15 years, but criticized the army for the lack of coordination among various bodies involved in safety, and the failure to properly collect and analyze data with an eye to preventing future accidents.

For instance, Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat found that three divisions produced three wildly different numbers for the total of IDF mild injuries.

However, the committee said it saw no reason to take investigations of accidents out of the army's hands at the present time.

The committee also noted that, according to the comptroller, one-third of the country has been declared a closed military area so it can be used for training - but the army has not thoroughly considered whether it needs that

much space. It is crucial that the army do so, the committee said, taking into account the civilian sector's need for land.

In addition, it said, the army must resolve its dispute with the Israel Lands Administration, because of which it has not paid rent for the military areas since 1988.

Regarding army wiretapping, the committee supported the comptroller's recommendation

that wiretapping by the military police be subject to judicial supervision, though it said the regular police should not be involved in the process.

It also said there was no justification for the current practice of exempting the offices of senior generals, including the chief of general staff, and the IDF spokesman's office from wiretaps aimed at uncovering security breaches.

Families of MIAs visit the Knesset

LIAT COLLINS

THE families of the three soldiers missing in action since the battle of Sultana Yakoub in the Lebanese War in 1982 visited the Knesset yesterday to mark the 13th anniversary of their disappearance.

Yona Bannet, father of Zachary Bannet, accused the government of not doing enough to bring the boys home. "For years we were told that we [Israel] had the goods but we had no partner to talk to; now we have a partner but they are not doing enough."

Bannet said he is particularly upset because "our sons are not being sacrificed for peace but for the peace process." And "that's a big difference." He said that some politicians, including Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin openly state that pressing the issue of the MIAs and POWs will upset the peace process and "others think

it, but don't have the courage to say it openly."

He said he had no expectations of the Knesset meeting, noting he had wanted to meet with the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee rather than just be present in the plenum discussion.

Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss met briefly with the families before leaving for a memorial service for the soldiers who fell in the Lebanese War. "Unfortunately, the exploitation of POWs and MIAs has turned into one of the tools of war in certain areas, a most cruel tool," he said.

Yosef Katz, father of missing soldier Yehuda Katz, called on the government not to sign any peace agreement before the POW issue is solved.

The parents of Zvi Feldman were also present.

Soldier charged for shooting up church

RAINE MARCUS

HANIEL Koren, the 21-year-old IDF soldier who went on a shooting spree at St. Anthony's Church in Jaffa on May 22 was indicted by the Tel Aviv District Court yesterday, after the district psychiatrist ruled he was fit to stand trial.

He will be tried in a civilian court rather than in a military court, under a ruling by Attorney General Michael Ben-Yair.

Koren was also indicted for torching the Gethsemane Church in Jerusalem last month.

According to the charge sheet, Koren shaved off his sideburns and beard to conceal the fact that he is religiously observant. He also allegedly made firebombs out of explosives and gasoline.

On May 18, the indictment reads, he left his home in Jerusalem for the church, where he set fire to the door and the organ.

Four days later, at St. Anthony's Church in Jaffa he emptied five rounds of ammunition, firing at the altars, statues and tabernacles. While he was shooting he shouted at a priest and a nun to "get out of the way."

He intended to destroy anything that represented idol worship, the indictment says.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lebanon War dead remembered

A memorial ceremony for the IDF soldiers who died in the Lebanese War was held yesterday at the Mount Herzl Military Cemetery in Jerusalem, in the presence of Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss, Supreme Court justices Zvi Tal and Theodore Orr, other dignitaries and about a hundred bereaved family members. Weiss said he believed that because the war was so controversial, there is less regard for the pain of the bereaved families.

A-G asked to probe Israel Museum

Knesset State Control Committee chairman David Magen (Likud) said he will ask Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair to launch a criminal investigation against the Israel Museum. According to the recent comptroller's report, the museum sent articles overseas for sale, but then let them sit there for years without being sold. In addition, money received for items that were sold was put into funds to pay employees' salaries, without the knowledge of the board of directors.

Army gynecologist to be indicted

The Judge Advocate-General's Office decided yesterday to indict army gynecologist Dr. Yaira Simon for negligence and forging documents. She is suspected of having forged documents regarding a test that was supposed to have been run on a woman soldier.

Winning numbers and cards

In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 4, 11, 22, 34, 46, 48 and the additional number was 15. Winning cards: In yesterday's Mifal Pappayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the nine of spades, ace of hearts, ace of diamonds, and king of clubs.

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